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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME * NO. 8

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 1988

SUSSMAN RESIGNS AS CSA

School Board Holds Special Meeting

by Mark Zuckerman

At a special meeting on Tuesday, June 28, the Roosevelt Board of Education, by a vote of 7-2, accepted the resignation of Dr. Stanley J. Sussman as Chief School Administrator, effective June 30, 1988. Dr. Sussman was not present at the meeting.

**for other school news,
see page 4**

The Board appointed Dr. Sussman to the newly created position of Director of Curriculum, to start July 1, 1988 at an annual salary of \$53,000. The Board granted Dr. Sussman a sabbatical leave of absence from this new position for the 1988-89 school year, at half salary. The Board accepted Dr. Sussman's resignation from the Roosevelt Public School District effective June 30, 1989.

Board member Art Unger, who opposed the above actions, said that he felt their timing "leaves the school vulnerable." Later in the meeting, he said that Dr. Sussman should be thanked "for his service to the school." This sentiment was echoed by member Ed Goetzmann.

The position of Administrative Principal will be added to the list of vacancies being advertised for the fall.

Lipoti, Counterman Win Primary

by Peter Warren

Roosevelt Democrats nominated Jill Lipoti and William Counterman in the June 7 primary for the two Borough Council seats to be decided in next November's general election. The Democratic nomination is usually tantamount to election. Lipoti is an incumbent member of the Council. Counterman served on the Council from 1979 to 1984.

continued on page 10

Planners Send PCD Ordinance to Council

by Bob Clark

At its June regular meeting the Planning Board revised a draft ordinance which would govern development of the Notterman tract east of North Valley Road and south of Eleanor Lane. After inviting and hearing extensive comments from the public, the board forwarded the proposed ordinance to the Borough Council, which will decide whether it should become law.

If introduced by the Council and passed after a public hearing of its own, the Planned Community Development (PCD) ordinance would specifically designate the type and location of approximately 76 housing units on the 106-acre parcel. Although the owner has not sought to develop the property, which presently lies in an agricultural zone, the area has been designated for future residential growth since the founding of the town.

The ordinance does not change the current agricultural zoning, but sets forth the conditions under which that zoning could be changed to residential.

As a result of comments from the public and Board members, Board Chair Alan Mallach, who wrote the ordinance after a group of volunteer experts prepared concepts based on community input, incorporated final chan-

continued on page 20

also in this issue:

<i>Council Moves Ahead on Utilities</i>	3
<i>Understanding the Tax Increase</i>	6
<i>Congregation Anshei Roosevelt at 50</i> ...	8
<i>In the News</i>	9
<i>A Tribute to David Brahinsky</i>	11
<i>Council Members' Reports:</i>	
<i>Sewage Treatment Project Status</i>	14
<i>Crime Prevention</i>	16
<i>Roosevelt's Fire Chief</i>	17
<i>RPS Flies High on Aviation Day</i>	18
<i>State Hears Citizens on Incinerator</i> ...	20
<i>Love of Life</i>	21
<i>Leon Barth: At the Crossroads</i>	22
<i>Book Review: The Great Peace March</i>	23
<i>In Memoriam: Mary Jane Berlinut</i> ..	24
<i>The Right Stuff: June Counterman</i>	26
<i>The Team Nobody Wanted</i>	27
<i>Hail the Honkering Heroes</i>	28
<i>Community Calendar</i>	36

Get Set For July Fourth (see page 3)

to be continued...

This issue of the *Borough Bulletin* is the last in the current volume. The past year has seen the *Bulletin* survive adversity to become a stronger and, we hope, a better paper.

Our next issue is due to be published at the end of September. With the new volume will come several important changes.

First, the *Bulletin* will no longer carry advertisements. We thank our advertisers for their support over the years, and hope that they continue their association with the *Bulletin* under our new guidelines.

We are looking to Roosevelt businesses and residents to underwrite our publishing activities. The response in both sectors has been encouraging. Starting in September, the names of all supporters and contributors will be published in each issue of the *Bulletin*.

We also urge local businesses and residents to make use of the new *Bulletin* classified listings. In the classified section, you can offer your services and goods and publicize your needs in a format which will attract the most attention. Listings are free, although we suggest a contribution of \$5 per issue, or \$40 per year.

The *Bulletin's* primary goal is to answer the question "What's going on in Roosevelt?" as completely, as accurately, and as promptly as possible. We strive to make each new issue better than the last one.

The Editorial Committee will be meeting over the summer to plan our next volume. The following goals are on our agenda:

- To promote informed and reasoned public discussion of important issues by publishing articles by those in the best position to present and analyze the facts and by offering space to those wishing to express opinions.
- To generate interest in and constructive involvement with civic activities in Roosevelt by publishing in-depth profiles of local organizations and interviews with the people who make them run.
- To carry more items of neighborly interest: news of personal accomplishments, and pictures and accounts of happenings about town.
- To issue other publications of value to the community: an Arts and Literature Supplement, an Index to past issues of the *Bulletin*, and an updated Community Handbook and Telephone Directory.

...with your help

These are ambitious projects, requiring a great deal of work. The *Bulletin* is a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers. To meet our goals, we need help.

We Need Your Ideas

The *Bulletin* is a community newspaper. Let us know how well you think we serve Roosevelt's needs, and how we can do better.

We Need Your Involvement

The *Bulletin* depends on people who are interested enough in what's going on to write about it. If there is something you'd like to see in the paper, or if you have something on your mind that you'd like people to know about, or if you are interested in learning more about Roosevelt or about writing for a newspaper, join us. We need writers, reporters, and fact-finders.

We Need Your Money

The *Bulletin* is mailed free to Roosevelt residents. Out-of-towners pay a nominal subscription rate of \$5 a year. We are a community newspaper which depends entirely on community support.

It costs approximately \$18 per page to produce, print, and mail the *Bulletin*. Nine issues—one year's effort—costs about \$4,000. An Arts and Literature Supplement and a Community Handbook would cost about \$500 each.

Your contribution at this time will allow us to continue operating. We shall publish the *Bulletin* only as long as we have the money to do so.

We Need Your Response

In the center fold of this issue you'll find a survey form enclosed in a reply envelope. Please use it to let us know what you think and to send us a contribution.

—Mark Zuckerman, Editor

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The *Bulletin* is published nine times a year, in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May, and June. Each issue is distributed at the end of the month.

The deadline is the 15th of the month, except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

It saves us a lot of work if we get articles and letters in clean, double-spaced typescript (produced on a typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or in the form of files on IBM-compatible 5-1/4" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from the following programs: Microsoft Word; Displaywrite 2, 3, & 4; Multimate; Samna Word III; WordPerfect; and WordStar. Please identify program and version.

Council Moves Ahead on Utilities

by Adeline Weiner

The Borough Council at its June 8th meeting accomplished some important business, mainly in the area of public utility affairs, but also in regard to issues of public safety and public property.

Decisions advancing the water/sewer program included introduction of an ordinance (No. 24-7) to set new charges for the use of water/sewer facilities. An analysis of the costs and revenues involved is discussed in a separate article in this issue, but it is noted here that the water/sewer fee to a family dwelling will be \$65.00 a month beginning August 1, as proposed in the new ordinance.

Public Utility Chair Ed Moser happily announced that the repair to the pump that broke down last month cost less than \$2,000—\$200 less than anticipated.

A contract for installing a sewage grinder pump at Hilltop Swim Club was awarded to Birdsall Excavation Co. The Council was satisfied that although Engineer Birdsall is related to the company's owner (nephew to uncle) there exists no business connection between them.

Mr. Moser also announced that he, Council member Lipoti, and the Mayor, at a meeting with the town engineer, have agreed to Birdsall's new sewer repair plan that disposes of lagoons in favor of four holding tanks, two primary and two secondary, with capacity to switch functions, thus providing expanded flexibility and allowing for a reduction in the amount of solid waste that will need chemical treatment.

Mayor Barth was informally told by an official in DEP that Roosevelt may be subject to a one-time fine of \$5,000 for lateness in submitting its plan. In view of the fact that a plan submitted on time and not accepted is not strictly "late," it would seem that such a penalty could be justly challenged.

New bids are sought for the sale of the Imhoff tank and for sludge removal. The Brown Street cut-off is operational but Jersey Central had still failed to turn on the power so that a measure of infiltration abatement has still to be made.

On Safety Issues

In the area of Public Safety, Chair Jill Lipoti reported that the town meeting on Crime Prevention was well-attended and responsive to such issues as juvenile vandalism. There will be follow-up activities in the Fall with the cooperation of the State Police.

Our borough is a recipient of \$462 of grant money for fire fighting services. In this regard, Ms. Lipoti reported on-going negotiations with Millstone Township, as well as on the helpful assistance received from Ed Miller, a resident here who is also a fire inspector and a Millstone fire department member. Chair Lipoti called attention to the two-fold problem of small-town fire companies: the shortage of volunteers and the high cost of the equipment mandated from above. Until we reach a settlement with Millstone, however, she urged that the town still badly needed local volunteers.

Her report contained a preliminary announcement from the State Police that orders the initiation of a municipal plan and commission whose purpose will be to safeguard the community against accidental events like roadway collisions involving hazardous spills that may emit poisonous, polluting or inflammable substances. The commission is to have representatives of governing bodies, auxiliary services, the media, environmental groups and industry.

Other Business

Marilyn Magnes, Streets and Roads Committee Chair, was absent from the regular meeting but present at the Monday agenda meeting where she reported new plans to survey the pothole scene with Mr. Hendrickson, who has failed to show up at earlier dates. She announced the issuance of a letter to all residents reminding us of borough parking ordinances and penalties, especially as they pertain to such traffic-congested areas as the Courts.

Jim Alt, Chair of the Public Property Committee, reported on the pros and cons of making application for a Clean Cities grant of some \$4,000 a year. If the benefits are considered to out-weigh the elaborate and costly compliance procedures, Alt will in the

continued on page 13

Everyone's Invited

Roosevelt Community Fourth of July

by Bill Counterman

Come one, come all—to our lively, patriotic, traditional Roosevelt event. It will be held this year on Monday, July 4, with a rain date of Sunday, July 10. It will give new residents and visitors an opportunity to get to know Roosevelt and the old timers to reminisce and share that Roosevelt fellowship.

The events of the day begin with a run-a-thon from the corner of Rochdale Avenue and Tamara Drive at 8 AM. There will be a one-mile course for those under 12 years of age and a 4.4-mile course for those over 12. Each participant will receive a certificate.

Our parade will start from the same corner at 2 PM. Marching groups, organizations, decorated bicycles—everyone is invited to join in. The parade route will be around Tamara Drive to Pine Drive, Pine Drive to Rochdale Avenue, then down Rochdale Avenue to the War Memorial Rock at the Roosevelt Public School.

After a brief ceremony, our picnic will begin. Hot dogs, birch beer, iced tea, iced water, etc. will be in generous supply and free to all. There will be various games available with supervised games for the children. Music prepared especially for this event will be presented at the Roosevelt Memorial Amphitheater.

Art raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets will be on sale to help defray the expenses.

Everyone is asked to refrain from bringing fireworks as it is illegal and dangerous and violators will be prosecuted accordingly.

Please bring your own chair and enjoy our community Fourth of July.

If you wish to help with this event or have any questions, please contact June or Bill Counterman at 448-3182.

Bill Counterman is President of the Roosevelt Fourth of July Committee.

School Board News

Education & Personnel Committee

The Education and Personnel Committee is working on a number of issues. Topics and recommendations made during the June meeting included:

- The Committee recommended that the Pre-Kindergarten program be continued, on condition that there be better support services for parents and other improvements. This program is seen to be potentially a great educational opportunity for Roosevelt children and those from surrounding communities.
- Several staff positions will be filled over the summer, including a part-time librarian and an upper grades teacher with a strong background in science and mathematics. The committee has recommended an aggressive advertising campaign to fill the vacancies.
- The Committee recommended the use of an accounting auditor on a volunteer basis to analyze the operating efficiency of the school's accounting procedures.
- The Committee recommended approval of a local census to be done in conjunction with the Planning Board.
- The Committee forwarded recommendations for teacher recognition, and thanks Carol Miller and Ken Symons for their volunteer efforts at RPS.

Instructional Council

The Instructional Council, composed of Board members and RPS teachers, is concerning itself with:

- Better use of the school library
- Eighth grade class trips
- Primary grading
- Honor Roll publications
- Student-Parent Handbook
- Job Descriptions
- Fire Drills
- Various Inservices

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has drafted a job description for the position of Chief School Administrator. The Committee invites and encourages public review of the draft, which is available in the school library.

Other topics for the June meeting include:

- Nurse's procedures for examining students
- Procedures for visits to the school
- Procedures for opening each school day

DYFS Affair

On Wednesday, May 25, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) conducted an investigation at RPS. Ms. Kathy Gurcio, a caseworker from DYFS' Institutional Abuse Unit, entered RPS in the morning and privately interviewed several students. The Chief School Administrator accommodated Ms. Gurcio, as required by law.

At the Board Action meeting of June 16, the Board read several letters from parents, including a petition with 21 signatures, which expressed concern over the lack of notification of this event provided them by the school. Several parents echoed these concerns during the public portion of the meeting. The Policy Committee placed on its agenda the development of procedures for dealing with similar occurrences.

Eighth Grade Math Placement

RPS eighth graders were tested by the Math Content Specialist at Hightstown High School for placement in 9th grade mathematics. Initially, only two out of eight students scored well enough to be placed into Algebra I, the "regular" math course for 9th graders. One borderline student was later admitted to Algebra I after a discussion between the child's parents and the Content Specialist.

Several parents of these students expressed concern to the Board and the Chief School Administrator about the preparation their children were receiving in mathematics, which would allow a student to achieve good grades in math at RPS and yet be placed in a remedial math course in high school.

Through the efforts of Board member Margaret Katz, who chairs the Board High School and Transportation Committee, and of East Windsor Content Specialists, arrangements were made for the eighth graders placed in remedial math to attend summer school and be re-evaluated. The Board voted to defray the expense. In addition, the Board said it would consider reimbursement for tutoring after student needs were established.

School Board Calendar

all meetings are at RPS

Committees

Building & Grounds

Mondays at 8 PM
July 11, August 8, September 5

Education & Personnel

Thursdays at 7:30 PM
July 7, August 1, September 4

Finance

Mondays at 7:30 PM
July 11, August 8, September 5

Policy

Fridays at 7:00 PM
July 29, August 26, September 30

Board Agenda Meetings

Second Thursdays at 7:30 PM
July 7, August 11, September 8

Board Action Meetings

Third Thursdays at 7:30 PM
July 21, August 18, September 15

School Schedule for September

1-2..... Staff Orientation
6..... Classes Begin
12-13, 20-21 ... Jewish Holiday Closings

Roosevelt Honor Roll

Certificate for Outstanding Scholastic Performance
(for those earning honors at least three times during the 1987-88 school year):

Cheri Katz
Grade 9

Daniel Ivan Jaeger
Grade 10

Robert Edward Warnick
Grade 10

Joshua Brahinsky
Grade 12

Academic Decathlon Award:

Dylan Altman

Congratulations to Our Graduates

Eighth Grade

Olivier Gilles Altman

Kathleen Marian Bauerle

Michael James Bowker

Rachel Brahinsky (PDS)

Xantha Burghardt

Traci Jean Connaughton

Jennifer Lee Francis

Jamie Paul McLaughlin

Alejandro Zev Penalver

High School

Joseph Aaron Block

who plans to attend Fairleigh
Dickinson University to study business

Samantha Joy Block

who plans to attend Johnson and
Wales College to study fashion
merchandising

Joshua Brahinsky

who plans to attend Oberlin College
to study liberal arts

Erica Dawn Green

who plans to attend Mercer County
Community College to study business

Christine E. Hermann

who plans to attend Upsala College
to study psychology and computers

Adam Scott Lifland

who plans to attend Brookdale
Community College

Michael Brett Nahmias

who plans to attend Millersville
University to study communications

Brian Charles Suk

who plans to attend the Operating
Engineers Training Center

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

Our local nursery schoolers ended their school year with a flurry of exciting activities, including a surprise visit from neighbor Bob Kragen and his banjo and a visit to FAA Aviation Day held at RPS and organized by Ken Symons. Thank you, Bob and Ken—the kids really loved it all! The children also spent days creating their own special surprise Father's Day gifts, then feted their parents with an end-of-year party featuring their own homemade fruit salad.

While June 21 marked the youngsters' final school day, the RCNSers will reunite on July 4 to "strut their stuff" in the Roosevelt 4th of July parade. The nursery school parents, too, will have plenty to do that day, recruiting new students for our program and selling tickets for our annual Summer Raffle. (Thanks to the Ernsteins and Roosevelt Printing for providing the tickets!) A \$1 ticket will offer the holder the chance to take home a brand-new Proctor-Silex Oven-Broiler or a signed limited edition Stefan Martin print, "Hands Around the World."

We're also working on such diverse upcoming Fall events as a Discovery

Toy party (September 25), the Used Book Sale and yes, we'll be collecting books all summer and a benefit concert starring David Brahinsky. We'll keep you posted!

In closing, we'd like to wish the best of luck in kindergarten to our first crop of RCNS "graduates: Seth Klein Dooley, Jacob Estenes, Billy Jackson, and Hannah Rashkin Stinson. We'll miss you all!

Honor Roll

Now that the Roosevelt Community Nursery School is a year old, we'd like to look back and once again offer our special thanks to two very special benefactors: MIRA for underwriting the addition of Friday sessions to our schedule; and Ron Gale and Universal Process Equipment, whose donation allowed us to pay that all-important insurance bill and open our school last fall. We couldn't have made it without you!

We'd also like to express our gratitude again to all those good neighbors whose generous contributions of funds, equipment, expertise, services, and time made our first year a reality.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

On June 7 the PTA held elections for officers for the coming year. The new officers are:

- President: Carol Zaleski
- Vice President: Robin Carroll
- Treasurer: Filipa Unger
- Secretary: Adeenah Yeger.

We are also pleased to have Carol Miller as our Cultural Arts Director and Teresa Lepore as our Art and Publicity Director. Carol has donated a great deal of time arranging assemblies for our children this past year. The successful fundraisers we've had enabled us to provide an assembly per month at the school for everyone's enjoyment. Teresa Lepore has done a beautiful job for the PTA designing our posters and signs and working on the publicity for

all our events. We are extremely grateful for their help.

All in all, the past year has been very successful and we are already looking forward to next year. We want to remind everyone to continue saving your Campbell Soup labels as we will continue with the Campbell Soup drive for free school equipment next year. We would also like to remind everyone that our annual magazine sale will begin on Sept. 20, so please save your renewals until then and spread the word to friends, family and neighbors.

As the school year comes to a close we want to thank everyone who helped make this year a success for our children in RPS and we look forward to seeing you all in September. Have a great summer!

Understanding the Property Tax Increase

Analysis and Viewpoint

by Michael L. Ticktin

As tax assessor, I have the dubious honor of being the first person to be formally notified of the new tax rate each year by the County Board of Taxation. This year, the news is particularly unpleasant. The overall tax rate has gone from \$3.227 per \$100 of assessed valuation in 1987 to \$4.077 in 1988, an increase of 26.34%. The taxes on a house assessed at \$60,000, for example, will increase from \$1,936 to \$2,446. Since taxes for the first half of the year were billed as an estimate based on last year's rate, the increase for the entire year will have to be paid in the third and fourth quarters, thus doubling the increase for those payments.

To understand why this has happened, we must look at the two factors which, between them, mathematically determine the tax rate: ratables and spending. On the ratables side, the Borough went from \$22,298,220 to \$23,159,251, largely as a result of the construction of six new homes and the removal of one property from farmland assessment. Without these additional ratables, the tax rate would have gone to \$4.210 per \$100. The owner of the house with the assessed value of \$60,000 would have had to pay \$2,526 rather than \$2,446. Small comfort though it may be, the amount of ratables increase that we did have (which brought with it no apparent costs) saved that homeowner \$80 in property taxes.

What, then, happened on the spending side? To understand this, we must remember that our property tax is our proportionate share of the budgets for the municipal government, the school district, the county government and the county library and health systems. The inset at right compares taxes to be raised, the rates and the percentage of the total tax bill for these five budgets in 1987 and 1988.

It is evident from these figures that the problem area on the spending side is the school district. The increase alone is about one and a half times as great as the entire municipal government budget.

Viewpoint: Choices for Action

It is clear from these facts that there are hard decisions which we, as a community, must make. Many people feel very strongly that things must not be allowed to change, at least not very much. The new tax bill is an indication of the price that must be paid if this is the path that we choose to take. If the majority are willing to pay that price, so be it.

If, however, the majority feel that tax increases and tax bills of this size are unacceptable, alternatives must be explored thoroughly and, so to speak, bullets bit, even if there is not unanimous agreement. A school operating at 50% of capacity, when State school aid is provided on a per student basis, must inevitably be a tremendous financial liability to the community.

In my view, there are two ways of correcting this situation:

1. Providing educational services jointly with other communities, through either regionalization or an agreement to receive surplus students from another district, or
2. Encouraging the building of enough new homes to fill the school.

The time is long past for the Board of Education, the Planning Board and the Borough Council to begin working together on a sustained basis, in good faith and without recrimination, to develop and implement a unified strategy to stop this drift into a level of taxation that will surely drive people from their homes if it is allowed to continue.

We have no excuse for failure. We are not an impoverished community that has a high tax rate because it requires excessive municipal services. We have open land that can be developed in a manner consistent with both our historic plan and our current community requirements. We have nearby school districts which might be happy to discuss regionalization or some other improvement on the current situation with us if only they were approached seriously. The one thing that we cannot afford is to do nothing and to hope, like Mr. Micawber, that "something will turn up." Rather, in the words of Mr. Churchill, "Let us go forward together with our united strength."

Property Tax Breakdown, 1987-1988

AMOUNT OF TAX LEVIED:	1987	1988	% change
County.....	117,161.33	131,842.48	+12.5%
County Library.....	4,566.02	5,009.72	+9.7%
County Health Dept.....	2,673.75	2,472.76	-7.5%
School District.....	462,516.00	666,040.00	+44.0%
Municipal Govt.....	132,618.00	138,610.15	+4.5%
TOTAL.....	719,535.10	943,975.11	+31.2%

RATE PER \$100:	1987	1988
County.....	.525	.569
County Library.....	.020	.022
County Health Dept.....	.012	.011
School District.....	2.074	2.876
Municipal Govt.....	.595	.599

PERCENT OF TOTAL TAX:	1987	1988
County.....	16.27%	13.96%
County Library.....	.62%	.54%
County Health Dept.....	.37%	.27%
School District.....	64.27%	70.54%
Municipal Govt.....	18.44%	14.69%

for a list of tax benefits for homeowners, see page 11

Other Points of View

Freda Hepner

I am very glad to read the clear overview of our current tax rate as presented by Michael Ticktin. It is important for all of us to understand his analysis of the increase if we are to make informed decisions about our future as a community.

Mr. Ticktin implies that if "we encourage the building of new homes to fill the school," our tax problems will be solved. I find that rather unrealistic. Our Board of Education is seriously considering sending our 6th, 7th and 8th graders to East Windsor. That means that of the 12 years a child would spend in public school, 6 would be in Roosevelt and 7 would be in East Windsor. Tuition for one child per year is approximately \$5,000.00. Even if tuition and transportation costs remain the same, we can anticipate the cost of educating each Roosevelt child who is past the 5th grade at \$35,000.00. This would be in addition to the high cost of running our K-5 school building. Taxes on new homes will *not* cover these costs.

A considerable number of new houses will, of course, also raise the costs of other municipal services: garbage collection, maintenance and plowing of roads, new street lights, insurance, etc. We will have to consider

the increased needs for emergency services. Our Fire Company, despite its best recruiting efforts, is woefully understaffed now. Neighboring communities with extensive growth have had to increase police services—a very expensive undertaking.

Increased homes may fill the school, but they do not alleviate tax burdens. In fact, they tend to increase them. One need only to look at the massive growth in West Windsor of housing and industry—the tax rate there has grown at a much faster rate than in Roosevelt, despite all the new ratables!

No one of us likes to pay high taxes but we need to be sure that the answers we find will really alleviate the situation. I am not as sure as Mr. Ticktin is that "the time is long past" for a concerted community effort. Clearly, we have to stop dragging our feet and through the good efforts of our elected bodies, explore the possibilities. Let's have an impact study, let's find out what regionalization would mean for our school, let's get the information and make a *community decision*. I believe that we have the energy and talent to do it, if we will.

Freda Hepner is a former Mayor of Roosevelt.

Adeline Weiner

On reading Michael Ticktin's cogent letter on the new tax situation, a simple thought kept going around in my head: You don't build the community to fit the school; you build the school to fit the community!

If and when Roosevelt ever develops in a big way in the future will be time enough to reconstitute a full K-through-8-type school. In the meantime, I agree with Michael that times have changed and we must face some very expensive realities.

Let's then decide to shape our school according to our need (through regionalization or some other cooperative venture) and not pull our town all out of shape in order to maintain an educational plant that extends us so far beyond our modest means.

Adeline Weiner covers the Borough Council and writes features for the Bulletin, and is a member of its Board of Trustees.

What do you think?

Write the Bulletin

Anita Cervantes

As a Planning Board member, I find particular interest in Michael Ticktin's article explaining our tax structure. One of the great pleasures for me of living in Roosevelt is its collection of concerned, involved problem-solving people, and Michael is certainly one of the chief among these.

I want to voice my support for the point Michael makes about our all working together to solve problems. This does not mean that there will be unanimity: on the contrary, our natural contentiousness can be the pathway to a rare extensiveness of discussion and broader sense of options. Our ability not to compromise on the things we care most about as a community can be a strength. But factionalism and lack of consensus about the smaller things can irretrievably damage us as a community.

Despite my wholehearted support of Michael's urgings towards goal-oriented discussion and action, I must also voice my doubts about the second of his two proposed solutions: namely, that additional residential development is the best solution to the spiraling costs of our school.

While we have not yet been able to budget funds for a study of the impact of additional residential development on Roosevelt in particular, events in neighboring communities are enough to give me pause. For example, the West Windsor community *has* been experiencing substantial residential development. The impact study they did recently showed that for every dollar in additional rateables, their costs were \$1.17. In informal discussions with other planning-related professionals in the area, I have discovered

that School Board members in Route One communities are now pleading with their Planning Boards not to allow additional residential development because of the costs it will incur in school services.

Finally, since there is no way we can mandate who purchases whatever housing might be built, who is to say that the families moving in would not have kids of high-school age? This, so far from bringing in more money, would cost us more money. Even if we do get additional students for our school, sooner or later they will be continuing on to high school. Consequently, isn't this just a short-term solution?

Anita Cervantes chairs the Farmlands Study Committee of the Roosevelt Planning Board

Congregation Anshei Roosevelt at 50

by Michael L. Ticktin

This year, Congregation Anshei Roosevelt—the name means, quite simply, “People of Roosevelt”—celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its founding. Originally, appropriately enough, the name was Congregation Anshei Jersey Homesteads, but it was changed for obvious reasons after the Borough was renamed. Its certificate of incorporation provides that, in addition to holding Jewish religious services, it has as one of its purposes working for the good and welfare of all the people of the Borough.

For most of the first twenty years of its existence, the Congregation held services in a converted storage building (since removed) on public land near the pathway between the Pine Tamara triangle and the school grounds. In 1955, work was begun on the building of the synagogue at 20 Homestead Lane, which has been the Congregation's home for more than 30 years.

In the early years of the Congregation, the community was overwhelmingly Jewish in its composition. The Congregation, together with its Sisterhood, was one of several Jewish organizations in the community, the others including Pioneer Women (which still exists as a charitable fundraising organization, though it does not hold regular membership

meetings), the Workmen's Circle (*Arbiter Ring*) and the *Farband* (Jewish Socialist Organization). Consequently, the Congregation attracted Jews who were interested in religion, but not those who, as is often the case today, were interested only in a way of expressing their ethnic identity, since those people had alternative organizations.

The one activity in which all of the organizations got together was the *Chevra Kaddisha* (burial society), apparently on the theory, once expressed to me by the late Irving Plungian, a stalwart of the non-synagogue faction, that a proper Jewish burial was beyond ideology. (An artifact of the early period, a cloth still used by the Congregation for covering caskets, clearly illustrates how the burial society, as an umbrella organization of the Jewish community, was viewed as a public entity in a way inconceivable to us with our modern sense of the meaning of separation of religion and state. Around a Star of David is written “Jersey Homesteads Cemetery Department.”)

As times have changed, the Congregation has done its best to adapt. In an effort to accommodate the wishes of most of its own members, and to increase its attractiveness to potential new members, the Congregation

voted, several years ago, to eliminate separate seating for men and women (required by Orthodox Jewish law) and declare itself to be a “Traditional Conservative” synagogue.

In addition to providing Jewish religious and cultural programs, the Congregation continues to be conscious of its obligation, expressed in its charter, to serve the entire community and, for that reason, it has made space available to the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School, which we see as meeting an important community need.

Congregation Anshei Roosevelt always welcomes new members and new participants in its services and other activities. Dues, at \$250 per year, are considerably lower than those in most other area synagogues. Contributions from non-members who appreciate the importance of what we are trying to do and want to keep having a synagogue in town are very welcome. Maintenance of our building is not cheap, and we are very grateful for any help that is provided.

For more information about the Congregation, please call Religious Director Shlomo Weiss (448-2526), President Michael Ticktin (448-0363), Vice President Robert Eisner (448-2510), Secretary Frieda Anish (448-2365), or Treasurer Louise Prezant (448-2659).

New Education Program Announced

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

September 18 is the kick-off day for a new family-oriented Jewish education program sponsored by the parents of the current Alef-Bet Jewish School students.

Designed for Jewish parents, their children, and interested non-parents as well, the new program will focus on the major Jewish holidays. As each holiday approaches, a (rotating) “host” family will work with the other participants to organize a festive celebration/learning experience. These holiday parties will feature songs, stories about the holiday, and traditional food, as well as arts and crafts projects, dances, and special ac-

tivities when appropriate. They will take place at either the “host” family's home or at the Borough Hall, depending on the host's preference.

Holidays we will celebrate this coming year are the High Holy Days, Succoth, Chanukah, the Sabbath, Purim, Pesach, Shavouth, and Tu B'Shvat/Israeli Independence Day. The first celebration (Rosh Hashona/Yom Kippur) will be hosted by Karyn and Eitan Grunwald on Sunday, September 18, from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M.

Interested? Please contact Karyn Grunwald at 426-9064 for details. We hope we'll be celebrating the holidays joyfully with Rooseveltians of all ages!

Schedule of Services for the High Holidays

Erev Rosh Hashonah

Sun. Sept. 11, 7:00 PM

Morning Service, Mon. Sept. 12, 9:00 AM
Evening Service, Mon. Sept. 12, 6:30 PM

Morning Service, Tues. Sept. 13, 9:00 AM
Evening Service, Tues. Sept. 13, 6:30 PM

Erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre, Tues. Sept. 20, 6:30 PM

Morning Service, Wed. Sept. 21, 8:30 AM
Yiskor, Wed. Sept. 21, 11:00 AM

**Single tickets for non-members
will cost \$75.00 each**

In The News

by Peter Warren

Visitors from Afar...

...include 80-year old Kassahun Lena from Ethiopia. Mr. Lena is the father of Bahiru Kassahun (Ethiopian practice is for the father's first name to become the son's last name). He is a former teacher of Amharic, the national language, now retired to a Coptic monastery, who is spending two months in Roosevelt. His wife has lived with Bahiru and Ann for the past year...

...considerably younger George and Maria Jose Moita, United Nations economists who have spent most of the past year in Mozambique and Sao Thome, bringing Peter and Lillian Warren up-to-date on events in Portuguese-speaking Africa...

...and 17-year old Steffanie Horre, who enjoyed her 3-week stay over Easter with Ed and Judith Goetzmann as an exchange student from her high school in the German Federal Republic so much that she is returning for another visit in July.

In Education...

...Mark Katz and his friend Judy Savitch described Mark's five-week tour of Japan to the First and Second Graders in RPS...

...Susan McQueen was visiting artist to RPS in June and taught the First



Visitors from Ethiopia
photograph by Donna Kaufman

and Second Graders how to make hand-made paper in the Japanese style...

...Gabe Metzger, in the fifth grade at Abrams Hebrew Academy, has been selected to the Honor Roll. Several months ago, Gabe achieved a Fourth

Degree Purple Belt in American Korean Karate...

...and Jane Rothfuss will study public issues at Monmouth College and Princeton University this summer as a participant in the Teacher Enrichment Project of the Governor's School of New Jersey.

Senior Citizens Meeting, June 14, 1988

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

Jeanette Koffler, our President, presided at this meeting. In July we'll have our annual "picnic." This year we plan to have lunch at one of the restaurants close by.

Lou Esakoff and Debra Allen spoke to us about the need for volunteers (paid) to work as "aides" at the school. Any Senior Citizen who is interested can contact Mr. Esakoff, Ms. Allen or the school. Both the "Seniors" and the students will probably find this a rewarding experience.

We enjoyed companionship and refreshments. Marguerite and Sarah were our hostesses.

Have a happy summer.

Bulletin Trustees, Officers Re-Elected

At its annual meeting in June, the Board of Trustees of Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. re-elected its current Board and officers. The Board takes office in July and serves for one year.

The five Board members are: David Brahinsky, Gloria Hazell, Lillian Warren, Adeline Weiner, and Mark Zuckerman. The officers are: Mark Zuckerman, Editor; Gloria Hazell, Managing Editor; and Lillian Warren, Treasurer.

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., which publishes the *Bulletin*, organized as a New Jersey non-profit corporation earlier this spring, and is a member of the New Jersey Center for Non-Profit Corporations.

Princeton Book Club Fetes Norma Kushner

There was a surprise waiting for Norma Kushner when she came to this month's session of Marge Smith's Book of the Month Club, which meets at the Princeton YWCA.

The club felt that the occasion of Mrs. Kushner's recent 90th birthday was cause enough to preempt their normal schedule for a celebration. Mrs. Kushner, a Roosevelt resident and former Treasurer of the *Bulletin*, has been a member of the Book Club for 15 years.

Mrs. Kushner was born in Russia in 1898, and came to the United States in 1920. She settled in Roosevelt, with her husband Martin, in 1962.

Primary

continued from page 1

Lou Esakoff and Ann Baker were chosen for the County Democratic Executive Committee. Baker replaces current Committeewoman Jeanette Koffler. Esakoff was re-elected.

Local Republicans elected Mark Bianchi and Shirley Eichler to their County Committee. Both ran unopposed; Bianchi was a write-in candidate.

High Turnout

In what the *Trenton Times* called a "ho-hum primary" in New Jersey, Roosevelt was a striking exception. 305 voters—273 Democrats and 32 Republicans—showed at the polls, 10% more than in last year's primary. This turnout represents 50% of Roosevelt's registered voters, while the statewide average was about 25%.

There are about 50 more registered voters in Roosevelt than there were a year ago.

The high turnout occurred despite the closing of the Democratic voting machine for approximately three hours in the morning, due to conflicting instructions from the County Election Board. The machine as delivered omitted the name of Betty Holland, a candidate for Congress; a member of the County Board showed up at around 10:30 to revise the ballot. According to poll watchers, about 65 people were turned away in the morning, although all but approximately six returned later to vote.

Candidates' Reactions

Jill Lipoti was touched by the faith voters have placed in her. Following on her statement that "better communication must be established between the Council and the public so that all opinions and expertise can be taken into account in decision-making," she sees the use of the **Bulletin** by the Council to announce the July 5th public meeting on the Switchel residential development proposal as an example of reaching out to the community to ask for ideas on a question of common concern.

Bill Counterterman also hopes that the Council and the community will work

together more closely than in the past to solve our problems. One priority he sees is providing a clearer definition of the tasks of the Mayor and each Council committee chair. In the community, he believes, we have the expertise to study precise job descriptions for members of the governing body.

Stuart Kaufman, unsuccessful candidate for Council, applauds the voters for making this an exciting primary and thanks the other candidates for their willingness to discuss issues. "We are still faced with the same problems and issues [as before the primary]—the water/sewer utility, residential development, under-utilization of school capacity, the higher taxes and utility rates, and the need for a more open local government than we have had in the past."

Ann Baker sees herself as responsible for building a bridge between the older generation who created a strong Democratic Party in the community and the newer people to whom "the torch is passed" to continue to maintain a strong Democratic Party. She sees her task as one of getting people involved and helping to create strong leadership in the future.

Louis Esakoff did not have time to respond to a request for a statement.

David Savage and Donna Suk, who ran unsuccessfully as write-ins for the Democratic Committee posts, feel that they achieved some of their goals by registering new voters and influencing them to come to the polls—helping to unite the community with the Democratic Party. "We may have lost our bids for the Democratic Committee seats but both of us are committed to continuing our efforts. We are here to stay."

Mark Bianchi pointed out that "the American system of government is based on choices, and in Roosevelt not many choices were available. I hope to resurrect the two party system in town and offer the voters more than Plain Vanilla Politics."

Shirley Eichler declared that she is happy that, at long last, Roosevelt has a Republican Committeeman.

How They Ran

Winners are shown in boldface

Democrats

Borough Council

Lipoti	177
Counterterman	166
Kaufman	76

Executive Committee

Baker	162
Esakoff	146
Savage	65
Suk	59

President

Dukakis	170
Jackson	71
Gore	15
Duke	1

Senate

Lautenberg.....	170
Webster	2
Young	1

House of Representatives

Holland	102
Hornick	75

Freeholder

Kraymer	105
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Republicans

Borough Council (write-ins)

David Savage	5
Jill Lipoti	4
William Counterterman	3

Executive Committee

Eichler	23
Bianchi	4

President

Bush	25
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Senate

Dawkins	14
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House of Representatives

Smith	21
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Freeholder

Narozanick	21
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New Jersey Property Tax Benefits

Editor's Note:

The following is excerpted from a new brochure of this title prepared by the New Jersey Division of Taxation, supplied to the **Bulletin** by Howard and Louise Prezant. The brochure details qualifications and procedures for making claims.

Readers who want additional information may obtain this brochure by writing the Local Property Tax Branch, NJ Division of Taxation, 50 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08646.

Homestead Rebate and Additional Homestead Rebate

A yearly homestead rebate ranging from about \$155 to \$280 is available to qualified New Jersey resident homeowners.

An additional homestead rebate of \$50 is granted to those homestead rebate claimants who qualify as senior citizens, disabled persons, or surviving spouses.

Deduction for Veterans or Surviving Spouses

Fifty dollars (\$50) may be deducted each year from taxes due on the real or personal property of qualified war veterans or their surviving spouses.

Deduction for Seniors, Disabled Persons, or Surviving Spouses

An annual \$250 deduction from real property taxes is provided for the dwelling of a qualified senior citizen, disabled person, or surviving spouse.

Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans or Surviving Spouses

Certain permanently and totally disabled war veterans or their surviving spouses are granted a full property tax exemption on their dwelling house and the lot on which it is situated.

Exemption From Added Assessment for Solar Energy

A property tax exemption is available for certified solar energy systems. The amount of the exemption would equal the difference in the assessed value of the structure with and without the solar energy system.

Exemption From Added Assessment for Blast or Fallout Shelters

The fallout shelter exemption is equal to the value by which the property is increased through construction of the shelter but not in excess of \$1,000.

Reduced Assessment for Farmland

Land devoted to agriculture or horticulture may be assessed for property tax purposes on its value for these uses rather than on the market value of the land for any other use.

Home Improvement Exemption

A five-year exemption of the increased assessed value resulting from home improvements is available to residential dwellings. Under the law, a "qualified" municipality may, by ordinance, grant such exemption in amounts of \$4,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000.

Exemptions for Improvements to Multi-Family Dwellings and Certain Conversions to Residential Dwellings

A five-year exemption is available respecting improvements to multiple dwellings in need of rehabilitation and/or conversion alterations of buildings to multiple dwelling use. The exemption may be to the extent of the full amount of the improvements or conversion alterations or such portions thereof as established by municipal ordinance.

A Tribute to David Brahinsky

by Peter Warren

Under pressure from his other activities, David Brahinsky resigned the editorship of the **Bulletin** this spring. David is Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Trenton State, musician, writer, counsellor, and very much a family man.

David was Editor for approximately seven of the ten years since Sue Ann Jones started the **Bulletin**. And a good job he made of it, bringing out the nine issues a year that reflect the thoughts and happenings in the town during the Eighties. He also wrote for the paper.

In 1982, he interviewed Barbara and Steve Halpern who, like the Brahinskys, used natural childbirth. David noted that the new baby was "a Libra with Capricorn rising," to which Barbara responded, "That's good. I'm glad he didn't have Taurus rising."

In 1983, he wrote a two-part essay about his ideas on education. "Only via creative, wonder-enhancing education will we have a chance in hell to eventually uproot human greed, thus provide the change in conditions that will allow for creative continuance of *homo sapiens* and the rest of the biosphere we depend on for our very existence."

In the **Bulletin** literary supplement, he contributed a song-poem, ending: "In the poem, the picture, the song, the Sight/Oh artist what truth you have wrought!"

Subsequently, David painstakingly investigated local issues—such as one case of the controversial dismissal of a town employee by the Borough Council—and reported evenhandedly both sides of the dispute.

David has given our community the legacy of an enduring record of how we live. He encouraged a wide variety of people to write for the **Bulletin**—and to say what they thought. He set his stamp on our newspaper.

During his editorship, an increasing number of residents began to look forward to reading the news in each issue, and the number of readers outside Roosevelt grew as well. The Eighties have been years of an influx of newcomers to Roosevelt, and the **Bulletin** has been the most powerful single force drawing them into community life.

David has remained on the **Bulletin** as a Trustee and as Consulting Editor. His experience will continue to guide us.

In The Beginning...

Editor's Note:

Reprinted here is a copy of the earliest surviving Minutes of the Roosevelt (then Jersey Homesteads) Borough Council—from a meeting in July, 1937. The Mayor and Council met for three hours, disposing of \$24.85 from the Borough treasury (including \$3.35 for the Fourth of July celebration).

Our thanks go to Leon Barth, who suggested the idea and provided us with a transcript.

A meeting of the council of the Borough of Jersey Homesteads was held Tuesday evening, July 6th, 1937, at 8:45 P.M., at the home of the Mayor [Philip Goldstein].

Order of Business

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of Minutes
3. Reports-Hospitalization
4. Electing & Salary of Borough Clerk
5. Fire and Transportation
6. Letter from JHCC
7. July 4th
8. July 17 Arrangements
9. Construction Work
10. Playground
11. Legal advice
12. Election of President of Council

Present

M. Chasan, O. Nisnevitz, Mayor P. Goldstein, F. Hecht, I. Plungian, Clerk J. Feintuck, A. Lipsky, J. Sokoloff

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Corrections were made, and it was moved and carried to accept the minutes as corrected.

Municipalities Acts on borough were read by Mr. S. Goldstein.

Committee for registration for hospitalization:

Mr. Hecht recommended that it would be advisable to postpone question of hospitalization. They had contacted seventy-nine families, house to house. Collections were not successful.

It was moved and carried to accept Mr. Hecht's suggestion to postpone matter for another week and to continue with the collections.

Question of salary for Borough Clerk was opened. It was moved and carried to leave this matter open until the attorney was contacted.

Motion was made to continue with the business of the evening. Motion was carried.

Fire and Transportation Committee:

Mr. Chasan reported that the committee had worked out contract with Mr. Sokolow to take over the jitney. Contract was read.

It was moved to sell the jitney outright to Al Sokolow with condition that this be operated within the community. Permission was to be granted to operate in the Jersey Homesteads upon agreement to be worked out by the transportation committee. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Stonaker, it was reported, had offered to repair the fire truck at no charge except for cost of parts. The Committee requested \$10.00 allowed to the committee.

Motion was made and carried that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Stonaker.

Letter from the Jersey Homesteads Consumers Cooperative was read, requesting payment of \$4.50.

It was moved and carried that treasurer be authorized to pay \$4.50.

Report of July 4th Committee:

The committee reported expenditure of \$3.35 of the sum of \$5.00 allotted to them. It was moved and carried to thank the Fourth of July committee.

Report of committee for July 17th arrangements:

Mr. Plungian and Mr. Nisnevitz attended conference at Hights Theatre. It was decided that Jersey Homesteads be present at opening of the Post Office at Hightstown, and they parade in groups.

It was moved and carried that previous committee be given full charge for arrangements to be made for the parade. It was decided that up to \$5.00 be allowed for expenses. It was carried unanimously.

It was moved and carried that Mr. Sokoloff continue with the collection of dues until officer was selected.

It was reported that construction work had been cut to eighty hours per month for each of the homesteaders. It was recommended that the committee be selected to investigate the matter.

Problem of the non-attendance of the children at the playground was discussed. It was moved that a letter be written to Mr. Cox informing him that the committee will be present. It was moved that committee to look into the matter of the playground to arrange for playground instructor, preference being given to Shep Wolman. The committee elected was: F. Hecht, O. Nisnevitz, I. Plungian.

It was moved that two additional billboards be built, at the cost of \$1.00 each, with additional amounts for locks and hinges.

The question of the construction work was again brought up.

Motion was made and that committee be sent to Mr. Simon request that homesteaders be restored to same basis as previous. Motion amended that entire council attend meeting at Mr. Simon's office, at 10:00 A.M. the following morning.

Motion was made to appoint Mr. Lipsky to see Mr. Bennett and make necessary arrangements with him for legal advice. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of President of Council. Mr. Plungian elected unanimously.

Course of action for meeting with Mr. Simon's office was discussed.

It was moved and carried that meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

Approved
Philip Goldstein

Council

continued from page 3

next two months set up the necessary machinery and personnel, in tandem with such groups as the Borough Shade Tree Committee, and go ahead with the application.

At the request of the Roosevelt Arts Project, the storage in the Borough Hall of a grand piano which they propose to purchase and insure, was discussed and a positive "sense of the Council" statement was adopted with the proviso that the "old" piano be kept available for public use and that the RAP piano be accessible, under controlled conditions, for appropriate use by groups other than RAP itself.

A series of items for improvement of Borough Hall, agreed to by the bonding attorneys, will now be pursued, said Alt, with detailed plans to be presented for Council approval. Among these are an alarm system, a new bathroom, air-conditioning, and a computer and software system. The Council agreed to store the Board of Education lawnmower and it was proposed that the next step should be an attempt by Mayor Barth to negotiate with Millstone Auto for release of the old truck. Bids are called for to repair damaged areas of the cemetery and a truck liner for the new truck was authorized (for around

\$300). Locks will be put on sheds located near the Roosevelt monument.

In the absence of Ralph Seligman, there was no report on Culture and Recreation.

Other actions taken at this meeting were:

- A resolution to renew the liquor license to R. R. & F. Inc., for 1988-89, was passed after adoption of the ordinance to raise the fee to \$330.
- A salary ordinance adjustment was passed for the Borough Treasurer to receive \$3,070 for the year.
- A resolution was passed supporting the New Jersey Assembly action which resolved that the State provide funding for services or programs mandated by the State and delivered by Counties and municipalities.
- The Council agreed to a letter to be sent to Nina Burghardt and Margaret Schlinski thanking them for services rendered as school crossing guards.

A meeting of the Council was set for July 5th to hear a presentation from Switchel, Inc. requesting re-zoning of the Beer-Kugler tract from agricultural to residential.

Council Adopts Loan Repayment Schedule

by Mark Zuckerman

In a special meeting on June 14, the Borough Council took preliminary steps in the adoption of a schedule to repay \$738,000 borrowed by the Borough from the Monmouth County Improvement Authority (MCIA) to fund DEP-mandated capital improvements to the municipal sewage treatment plant.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Leon Barth; Council members Jim Alt, Jill Lipoti, Marilyn Magnes, and Ed Moser; and 14 members of the public.

Discussion centered around six 20-year payment schedules drafted for the Council by the Borough auditors. Three strategies were used:

- Increasing annual principal payments, which would carry the maximum interest charges but would minimize the amount of the early payments
- Decreasing annual principal payments, which would carry the minimum interest charges but would make the early payments significantly larger
- Equal annual principal payments

Public Utilities Chair Ed Moser favored the first strategy, reasoning that the payments in later years would be made with cheaper dollars (assuming continuing inflation), and that, in all likelihood, the town will expand over the next twenty years, with more taxpayers to share the burden. This sentiment was echoed by other members.

The Council resolved to adopt a schedule which would commit the Borough to repaying the principal starting at \$26,000, increasing to \$47,000 for each of the last four years. Since MCIA interest rates vary from month to month, it is impossible to estimate accurately the total amount of the interest. However, for the purpose of comparison, the auditors estimated the total interest paid using this schedule at \$556,855.

A formal ordinance reflecting this decision will be introduced at the regular Council meeting in July.

**There will be
a special meeting
of the
Borough Council
on Tuesday, July 5
at 8:00 PM
at the Borough Hall
to hear a proposal
from Switchel, Inc.
regarding the development of
the Beer-Kugler tract.**

Council Member

Sewage Treatment

by Ed Moser

The water-sewer utility, especially the sewage treatment part, suffered substantial neglect for many years. Suddenly it's hot news, and what makes it hot is not a sudden interest by the community in the delivery of water or removal of sewage. Rather it is the fact that it will cost Roosevelt substantial amounts of money to do these things lawfully and effectively. While there was an upgrade in the water treatment plant within the last ten years or so, sewage treatment was ignored despite warnings from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

When I became Chair of the Utilities Committee in January, 1987, it was to take charge of a comprehensive upgrading of sewage treatment to comply with DEP requirements. We were compelled to sign an Administrative Consent Order, and we were now faced with a regulatory deadline. We immediately set about asking the Borough Engineer to draft plans for the upgrade, and started to look into methods of financing.

Jill Lipoti, in the last issue of the *Bulletin* [*Sewage Treatment Plant Plans*, May], discussed some of the technical aspects of the problem. Basically, what we must do is get our sewage discharge (effluent) up to State standards where there would be no fecal matter, suspended organics, chlorine or more than minimal (in parts per million) amounts of ammonia and phosphates. In short, we were being asked to process sewage to a point where we could practically pump it back into the water treatment plant for treatment to make it potable. Certainly, it will provide a nice environment for fish and other aquatic life.

Initial Plans Rejected

The original plans for the upgrade called for a settling (or polishing) lagoon, followed by spray irrigation which would run water over unin-

habited State lands after the sewage had been treated. This would have allowed for settling of organics, evaporation of some volatile chemicals, and a relatively inexpensive low-technology way of preparing effluent for discharge into the Assunpink. We were encouraged in this by a DEP Water Resources official who came down and inspected the plans last summer. Eventually, though, the Fish and Game Division of DEP suddenly decided that the south side of Pine Drive is a wetlands, and overruled the spray irrigation.

Engineer Birdsall had to change plans quickly. He moved the lagoon next to the current treatment plant at the end of Pine Drive and resubmitted the plans to DEP. They took from October until January to respond and raise questions about parts of our submission. On February 12, Dr. Lipoti and I conferred with the Birdsall firm at its offices, and at her suggestion, we agreed to do away with the lagoon as being basically inappropriate without the spray irrigation feature.

At that meeting, and at a later one including the Mayor at the Borough Hall, we suggested several different approaches, primarily centering on incorporating a secondary settling unit to reduce the amount of fecal/organic matter to be processed by the chlorination unit. This would enable us to use less chlorine in treatment, and therefore to have to remove less chlorine.

Versatile New Design

At a recent meeting with the engineers, the Mayor, Dr. Lipoti and I were presented with a plan which would have two new primary settling tanks, two new secondary settling tanks, and would convert the current settling/digesting unit (Imhoff tanks) into a sludge depository, which would be emptied as often as necessary.

This versatile design would allow the wastewater to be diverted to any

of the three remaining settling units in the event of a maintenance shutdown of one unit. It also has a contingency design that would allow easy alteration in the event that DEP decided to place additional requirements on the effluent in the future.

DEP still has not approved our new plans, and we have no way of forcing them to hurry so that we can meet their own deadline of July 1.

Inflow and Infiltration

A further serious problem is "inflow and infiltration," that is, the leakage of storm and ground water into our sewer pipes. This dilutes the sewage and forces us to process far more than we need to, and is inefficient, wasteful and expensive. A major step towards reducing inflow and infiltration is a new section of sewer line from the Hilltop Swim Club, crossing Route 571, and joining the sewer on Lake Drive. This cuts off the so-called "Brown Street section," which is hopelessly riddled and irreparable. There are miles more sewer line to be improved over the next years, but they are not part of the current project.

Reactions from the Public

So what has caused all the fuss? People are perfectly willing to have sewage treatment plants upgraded, but it is not high on their lists of what's exciting. However, the \$775,000 bond for the improvements suddenly injects blood—and adrenaline—into a formerly lifeless and technical discussion.

\$738,000 of that has to be raised by bonded indebtedness, and bonds, of course, must be repaid—with interest. At a public meeting last October 28, all that was known of this was put before the public. Many people reacted angrily, knowing that they would have to pay more either in user fees or taxes in order to finance the improvements.

Report:

Project Status

At the October 28 meeting, DEP representatives assured the community that because the Borough of Roosevelt had made good-faith efforts to meet the July 1, 1988 deadline, we would be most unlikely to be subjected to a fine. Nevertheless, inaccurate literature was circulated saying that "the fines start July 1," and saying that there would be a new fine every day until final completion of the sewage treatment plant. This was not true.

Not a New Problem

It should be well understood that DEP has been warning the governing body of Roosevelt for years that we would have to make these changes. A combination of circumstances—mayors and public utilities chairs who hoped the problem would go away; concentration on upgrading the water treatment plant in the late '70's and early '80's—conspired to postpone dealing with the sewage treatment upgrade until 1987.

We still have to do the sewage treatment plant; we still have to pay off the bond (which will be closed sometime this month); and we still may even be assessed a fine by DEP despite their promises (although if we are, it is likely to be a one-time fine, which we can appeal and possibly have reversed through litigation).

Our bonding method is with the Monmouth County Improvement Authority (MCIA), through which we get low-interest bonding, and pay monthly interest payments and an annual principal payment.

How Do We Pay Back The Bond?

The traditional method of repaying water/sewer obligations in Roosevelt has been through raising the user fee to utilities customers. This may come to as much as a \$20 monthly increase (that is, a total water/sewer bill of \$75 per month), or more. None of this is

tax-deductible. It is a straight user fee, similar to an electric bill or a gas bill.

Another possibility is to include the principal and interest payment in the municipal tax. This would have the advantage of allowing federal tax deductions for the amount paid on principal and interest, which the user fee would not permit. Instead of a flat addition to the monthly user's fee, the payments on principal and interest on the bond would be distributed along with the rest of the municipal tax, i.e., according to the assessed value of the property. This would be more likely to distribute the burden more equitably, since owners of more valuable property, who (in theory, at least) are more able to pay, would contribute the most.

A disadvantage of this strategy is that there would be a very few taxpayers who are not water/sewer customers. This is not very much different from the way we all pay a school tax whether our families use the school or not. We pay the school tax because it is beneficial to the community to have educated citizens. Likewise, it is better to live in a cleaner community with cleaner water in our streams.

Another disadvantage, according to some, is that the utility, in order to have the bond payment go onto municipal taxes, would have to declare a deficit. And there certainly would be a deficit if we attempted to repay the bond without raising the user fee substantially. Also keep in mind that the user fee may well go up for operating expenses anyway, since the upgraded utility will require more chemicals, and more operating time by the Operator and Operator-Trainee.

The advantages of having the user fee alone repay the bond is that only water/sewer customers would be paying for it, and we would have no record of a deficit should we attempt to borrow money again. It is, however, not clear that declaring a deficit will make it harder to borrow money.

In any event, we will be paying out the bond over the next twenty years. We expect that as time goes on, inflation will make our dollars cheaper, so that the higher payments (whether in user fees or taxes) will take an increasingly smaller proportion of our income. We have attempted to schedule the payments so as to minimize the impact on those who pay.

New Utility Rates Ordinance

For about a year, some or all of the interest will be paid from reinvesting the unspent portion of the bond at a higher rate. This is not a long term solution to our problem, and the user rate increase will be needed to build up a cushion to absorb the interest and principal payments when we are on our own.

There is currently an ordinance proposed, and passed on first reading, to raise the utility rates by \$10 per month starting in August. That may have to be adjusted again next year. There will be a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on July 13, at the Borough Hall. Come on down and express your opinion.

The July 13 meeting will not make a final decision on the method of payment. If we do nothing, the bond will be repaid out of the utility fees. If you think it ought to come out of municipal taxes, let your opinion be known. We have no way of guessing what the community wants.

Don't leave expressions of opinion up to a handful of self-appointed "opinion-makers." Come down and let us know what you think, or write to the **Borough Bulletin**, or to the Council.

Public participation is a major aspect of democracy.

Participate!

Ed Moser chairs the Public Utilities Committee of the Roosevelt Borough Council.

Council Member Report: Crime Prevention

by Carol Watchler

The Public Safety Committee of the Roosevelt Borough Council held a meeting on Wednesday, May 27, to hear input from members of the community regarding public safety concerns. State Police Trooper Eugene De Toma of the Educational Services Unit was present to respond to questions and give recommendations for safety and crime prevention.

Crime Reporting and Prevention

The meeting focussed first on recent incidents in town including vandalism at the school. Citizens expressed concern about response time when the State Police are called. Trooper De Toma explained that response for a call regarding a crime in progress is given priority over response to an already completed crime when the perpetrator is no longer present.

Residents are urged to get vehicle descriptions and license numbers for any vehicles unusual to the area. Such information can be useful in the event that an actual crime has been committed.

Trooper De Toma emphasized that several factors are necessary for crimes to occur in residential areas: opportunity, desire, and a victim. He stated that the factor that is controllable by residents is "opportunity." He recommended that the following measures be taken by residents: using effective locks, providing adequate lighting, not obscuring a house with overgrown bushes, and maintaining the yard and having newspapers or mail picked up during vacation absences.

The Neighborhood Watch program was discussed. In this program signs are posted at points entering the neighborhood indicating that the area is a part of Neighborhood Watch. One person acts as a block captain, and

other residents can report any suspicious activities to the block captain.

Exploring the possibilities of establishing a safety patrol among the school children was seen by the group as a positive suggestion. Trooper De Toma reported that safety patrols have proved to be effective in creating greater safety consciousness and offering an opportunity for leadership to children that participate.

Mopeds

Another area affecting young people is the driving of mopeds. The police officer reiterated that any moped driver must be fifteen years of age, have a valid license from the Division of Motor Vehicles, and have a properly registered and insured moped. A driver may not exceed the speed limit and may not travel on roads where the speed limit is over 35 miles per hour. Any driver failing to comply with these requirements may receive a traffic ticket carrying points that apply to the lifetime driving record.

Police Protection

The State Police provide cost-free police protection for communities which are as small as Roosevelt. Should the Borough create its own police force, various cost factors would have to be considered carefully. For example, the cost of maintaining one officer on the street at all times involves back-up services which, as is the case in a neighboring community, could be equivalent to hiring seven persons. Added to the cost of necessary equipment, this would be an extensive undertaking on the part of the Borough. This expense must come into any impact study of population growth caused by additional development.

The meeting closed with the recommendation to investigate the Neighborhood Watch program. A meeting to consider this with a greater number of residents will be set up in the fall and it will include a movie detailing the operation of such a program.

Trooper De Toma said the incidents of crime in Roosevelt were no cause for great alarm. He cited the example of a town where it is common for burglary to strike one house in four. Although the impact of a burglary or vandalism on the victim directly involved is great, the overall problem of crime in Roosevelt is small by comparison with other communities. It is the goal of the Council and of the Public Safety Committee to keep it that way.

Carol Watchler is President of the Roosevelt Borough Council, and a member of its Public Safety Committee.

Please
be sure to
complete
your survey
and return it
to the
Bulletin

Roosevelt's Fire Chief Kim Dexheimer

by Gloria Hazell

Kim Dexheimer has been in the Department for nine years, and has been Chief for 2-1/2 years. He joined because he was asked to by his friend Jimmy Manzi (who was Chief at that time) during a brush fire near Kim's house. Kim laughed at that and said to me "Now that's not the answer you want; you want something about dedication and that sort of stuff." I didn't: I know that although he didn't join through dedication, he is very dedicated to the work, and puts much time and energy into the job.

When asked what he is the proudest of in the department he replied that it is the people in it who have "stuck it out in the Company through the good times and the bad times, through thick and thin." This answer surprised me so I let Kim enlarge on it. "In the last few years we lost a lot of oldtimers, I don't necessarily mean by age, I mean people who have been around the Company for a long time, 'cause they moved away. The people that are around now have stuck it out and they're probably what I'm most proud of. Just a few people with their own lives to live, who find time to go to fire school and drills, when they don't feel they have even the support of the community behind them they've still had that dedication to stick it out. It's real easy to walk away and they've had the dedication to try and put up with all the adversities. They stuck it out, that's why I stick it out."

Kim feels that the problem of membership is not confined to Roosevelt. Other departments have the same trouble obtaining volunteers. But he also feels that the general public has the "can't happen to me" syndrome. Fires always happen to the other person, never to me, and if it happens to someone else then that is not my problem. Because of that reasoning people no longer want to join departments and squads. They just don't want to get involved. He said, "Many fire Companies are hiring drivers for



photograph by Donna Kaufman

their trucks so that in an emergency at least the truck can get to the scene."

For the future he thinks it is most important to increase the ranks of the fire-fighters. The equipment also needs replenishing once the membership has built up. A small tanker would be very useful to enable more water to be taken to fires, since some areas of town have no hydrant available. He would like to keep to the budget and keep the truck and equipment up to date, which at times can be hard since the State can say that a certain piece of gear has to be renewed as specifications change. This happened recently with the turn-out-gear. It all had to be renewed at a cost of about \$300-\$500 per man.

Because of the history in the Company (including the first recognized woman firefighter in the country), Kim would hate to see the department close down. He would like to see the younger people in town getting interested in firefighting, but they do not seem to want to join. Maybe it's the lack of a social life, or because there are not many fires occurring in town. The Company could always use extra people if only to direct traffic, which

would then free up a qualified firefighter to help with the actual fire.

"Another thing which is very difficult is to break an old, old barrier which says 'Roosevelt houses can't burn.' I remember only a few brief years ago fighting a structure fire, a Roosevelt house, which pretty much destroyed two rooms and did a lot of smoke damage in the rest of the house. Someone walking down the street while we were cleaning up after this fire said 'Oh, it couldn't have been too bad, because Roosevelt houses don't burn.' And I invited the person to cross the street to take a look. I wasn't taken up on this offer. We could have been looking at \$20,000 damage, with the family out of their home for several months. Fortunately, no one was injured, even though the occupants were asleep when it started. We've been very, very lucky in this town."

Kim feels that in the case of a disaster in town, there would be major problems with such a small Company. Of course Mutual aid would kick in to play, but time would be real important to the people involved. This would mean that the Fire Department would be needed immediately as a first response team, be it to put flames out, lay foam on the ground, evacuate the townspeople, or just observe the situation and pass on the information to a central control.

Right now the fire department is called out to brush fires, cats up trees, motor vehicle accidents, dumpster fires, strange odors, and, of course, structure fires. The people on the Company will willingly come out to any call, even if it is of no consequence. "They would rather come to a house and find nothing than be called too late to save anything," Kim stated.

Let me finish this with Kim's own words: "I'd like to see the Company stay alive. The thing is it's not for us, the company personnel, it's not for the Council. It's for every resident in town."

RPS Flies High on

by Mary Alfare

Aviation Day at RPS on June 8 began with Hot Air Balloon rides for daring adults, as students, teachers, parents, community members and visitors watched.

Three air-taxi helicopters and a Medivac unit landed on the school field for hands on inspection by the children. The Aerospeciale Twin Star piloted by Ron Barone swooped low prior to landing, eliciting startled but delighted squeals and comments from the children. Two teams of three skydivers floated to the ground on colorful chutes. The second team trailed swirls of red smoke from canisters strapped to their extremities.

Roosevelt's First Aid Squad, including Irene Block, and Peggy and Jack Guyette, helped with crowd control and gave tours of the ambulance. Approximately twenty aviation professionals participated in the day's events.

Professor Joan Jones, of Mercer County Community College Aerotechnology Program, and Richard Cochran, Aeroventure Inc. at Robbinsville Airport, were the flight instructors who briefed and assisted some seventy students in their attempts at "piloting" an ATC 710 flight simulator. Clearly, both students and instructors enjoyed the experience.

Celebrities Present

Mr. Mike Sergio, one of the day's six skydivers, spoke to the students on the role of aviation sport and the importance of safety. He speaks from experience: "Oh you mean that time I 'fell' off the balcony [during the 1986 World Series] at Shea Stadium? I'm just lucky I had my parachute on." Such stunts are behind him and he now cooperates in FAA education programs. "These are great! This is for the kids!"

Many Soap Opera fans recognized Jeff Gendelman, one of the ground crew and a skydiver. He's had roles as Nick Dinatos in "Loving" and Frankie Montagne on "One Life to Live." Mike Sergio had a brief soap role as bodyguard.

Mr. Ed Kulas with the FAA Teterboro District office and Mr. Ed Cummings, US Parachute Association East-



RPS second grader Sarah Henry enjoying her participation at Aviation Day
 photograph by F. N. Kinney, courtesy of the New York Post
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ern Conference Director, were on hand to respond to questions from the public. Both said they enjoy their roles in aviation education and feel that it's important for kids to learn all about the many facets of aviation and safety.

Praise from RPS Teachers...

RPS teachers and staff had only praise for the way Aviation Day was arranged and its benefit to the children.

Mrs. Clare Sacharoff said, "It was 'hands on' which is always the best way to learn." Other teachers agreed with

her that "the children's enthusiasm, attentiveness, and the questions they asked" underlined that this was a positive learning experience.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gagliardi stressed the importance of Prof. Jones' participation. "It shows the children that women do pilot airplanes. That's important for affirmative action."

Several teachers commented that it is rare for children to be able to experience so many different elements of aviation, and at one event. As of today, many RPS students have decided on

Aviation Day

aviation careers according to comments overheard by their teachers.

...and Students

The kids had a marvelous time. Richie Somma, Jimmy Edelstein, Dawn Miller and Ezra Fischer liked the skydivers the best. Jessica Herman agreed, adding "especially the second group" who were "trailing smoke patterns as they came down." Jesse Fischer, Chris DeCocco, Marissa Cajigas, and Aaron Grossman were impressed by being able to board the helicopters. According to Aaron, "Going into the black helicopter (twin star) that swooped down on us was g-r-e-a-t."

Katie Alfare said, "It was great watching my mom go up in the balloon, but the best was doing loops on the flight simulator." Both Xantha Burghardt and Kate Freedman loved the hot air balloon but Kate lamented, "They didn't let it go anywhere."

Organized by Resident

The event came about because of an invitation extended last fall by Mrs. Ilene Levine to Mr. Kenneth Symons, an FAA Safety Inspector and Roosevelt resident, to talk to her class as part of an aviation unit. "How would you like a hot air balloon?" was his response. "When I called him this spring, he had it all worked out!" stated Mrs. Levine. She gives full credit for the day's success to the work of Mr. Symons and sees the "intense attention" of the children "as proof of learning."

Mr. Symons has clocked 7000 hours as an airline transport and helicopter pilot. He works out of the FAA Teterboro District Office and arranging educational aviation events is one aspect of his job.

Mr. Symons graduated RPS in 1964 and currently has a daughter, Lila, in the Pre-K program. "We didn't have programs like this when I was in school, and I think they're important for kids." He spent some 80 hours putting this program together. "Last night we had some cancellations and if it weren't for Jack McMasters and Chuck McKenna we wouldn't have had jumpers today. The School Board was cooperative in finalizing the arrangements," he stated.

Board Members in Attendance

Board members Debra Allen, Anne DeCocco and Margaret Schlinski attended the event and were unanimous that "Mr. Symons is to be congratulated for the considerable personal time and effort he put into planning and coordinating this event. It is a wonderful community service which will leave a lasting impression on our children." Ms. Allen noted that Mr. Symons "even arranged for the day's insurance coverage to be donated."

Chief School Administrator Dr. Stanley Sussman, who took his first hot air balloon ride on Wednesday, calling it "the highlight of my career," also expressed appreciation for all the work Mr. Symons did.

Time and Expenses Donated

The enormous expense of Aviation Day was borne completely by the Professionals, and Aviation companies who underwrote the cost of insurance and compensated the jumpers and ground crew for their expenses.

Participants and sponsors cooperating with the Federal Aviation Administration in presenting Aviation Day at RPS were:

- Medivac Skycare Unit-Brandywine Trauma Unit provided by Bocal Helicopter Corp.
- Aerospeciale Twin Star by D.N. Aviation, Inc., pilot: Ron Barone
- Bell 206 air taxi by Niman Aviation, pilot: Anthony Winton
- Yellow/Black air taxi by Yonkers Construction Co., pilot: Nick Delesio
- Hot Air Balloon by Paul Willie, General Giant Sports Balloon, Inc.
- Jack McMasters
- Charles McKenna
- McMahan Aviation
- Teterboro Flight Academy, Inc.
- Air Newark
- Airfleet International
- McDan Aviation
- Mercer County Community College
- Aeroventure Inc., Robbinsville Airport
- Tri State Skydivers

First Aid Squad Does Well at Fundraisers

by Anita Cervantes

In May, the Roosevelt First Aid Squad held two fundraising events: its annual Mother's Day Flower Sale, and its first ever Chinese Auction. Both were good fundraisers, according to Squad Captain June Counterman. The Flower Sale cleared \$500, and the auction \$2,100.

Counterman said that the proceeds from the two events will go to pay for Roosevelt's new ambulance. The monthly payments for the ambulance come to \$525 a month, she explained, and its insurance, which runs approximately \$3,000 per year, adds another \$250 per month.

Other upcoming events for the First Aid Squad include:

Thursday, September 15th: The Squad's annual Blood Drive will be held at the Borough Hall from 6 to 9 PM.

Sunday, September 18th: Members of the First Aid Squad will be going door-to-door in the Squad's annual Fund Drive. Contributions sent via mail are, as always, gratefully accepted and, Counterman said, "save us a bit of legwork!"

Mailed contributions should be sent to the Roosevelt First Aid Squad at P.O. Box 274 in Roosevelt, 08555.

Fire Company News

by Gloria Hazell

I wonder why it is that the calls the Roosevelt Fire Company has responded to in recent years in Farm Lane all happened on holidays: Christmas, 4th of July weekend, Memorial Day. Could it be that they want to invite the Company to spend time in their homes, but don't know how to go about it? Come on folks you don't have to set your houses on fire, you have only to ask!

The Fire Company would like to send best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jimmy Manzi after his recent illness. (As I write this he is in the hospital.)

The Roosevelt Fire Company needs new members. If you are interested in joining your Volunteer Fire Company, please write Box 490, Local.

Planning Board

continued from page 1

ges into the version sent to the Council. The principal change would make the provision of multi-family housing optional (in accordance with strict limitations) instead of mandatory.

The ordinance would also designate a required percentage of open space that would reflect the three major open areas covering approximately three quarters of the tract. These include the field below the cemetery, a field and buffer strip behind existing houses fronting Eleanor Lane and North Valley Road, and a wooded and hilly area along Empty Box Brook.

A development could not be built without sufficient capacity in the town's water and sewer systems, even if a developer has to pay for improvements necessitated by any project. The ordinance would require architecture compatible with the architectural character of the Roosevelt historic district. Although peaked roofs would be allowed, they could not have a pitch greater than 1 in 4. One final revision deleted a requirement that minimum window exposure exist on north-facing sides, while retaining mandated maximum window exposure on south facing sides. This would allow a homebuilder to expose substantial window areas on both sides, accommodating sliding glass doors and the like.

In other action Mallach welcomed new Board member Dennis Connaughton to his first meeting since he was appointed by Mayor Leon Barth.

Farmland Study Committee Reports

The Board also heard the first report of its farmland study committee, composed of board members Anita Cervantes, Gail Hunton and Barth, as well as Zoning Board member Jonathan Shahn and previous Zoning Board member Diana Mueller.

Cervantes summarized the committee's goals as fully investigating available options for preserving approximately 500 acres of northern farmlands as farms or in other open space uses and reporting the options to the Board along with specific strategies for implementation. At Cervantes' request the Board approved making a formal request to the Mon-

mouth County Planning Board to confirm the individual tracts as still eligible for the Farmlands Preservation program. Hunton had voiced a concern that, although this acreage is already designated as an "agricultural development area," encroaching development from Millstone may have affected its eligibility for the program.

Under this program the state government pays a farmer the difference between the development value of his property and its value as farmland. In return, deed restrictions preserve the land in agricultural use indefinitely. If the County's response is positive, the committee will contact Roosevelt's farmers to encourage them to look into the voluntary program and help to facilitate their inquiries.

Also at Cervantes' request, the Board gave the committee permission to prepare a resource study of the northern farmlands. The study would better inform decision-makers about the area's land uses, soil types, prime agricultural locations, biotic categories and endangered species habitats. Such a study would also inventory "viewsheds," specific vistas from specific points along the road into town. Cervantes said that such an inquiry would prepare the town to evaluate the accuracy and wisdom of developer representations. She said the committee would attempt to sponsor a workshop at the end of June or early July to discuss preparation of an inventory of the area. Mallach said that the committee's work could become the basis for the conservation or natural resource element of the Master Plan.

Switchel Letter Discussed

The Board also received a copy of a letter to the Council from the attorney for Switchel, Inc., requesting a rezoning of the 123-acre Beer-Kugler tract bordering the northern side of Oscar Drive from agricultural and industrial to residential—part multi-family and part single family. For the record Cervantes noted that the portion of the letter which represented that the proposal had been "well-received" by the Planning Board was incorrect, since the Board's reaction had actually remained neutral, pending further study.

State Hears Testimony on Millstone Incinerator

by Nina Burghardt

On May 25, representatives of Millstone and surrounding communities gave testimony to the State outlining reasons why Millstone should not be selected as a Toxic Waste Incinerator site. Various experts, politicians, and private citizens spoke.

A representative of Roux Associates, a hydrology firm hired by Millstone, pointed to evidence indicating that the water level in the area is higher than permitted by State safety guidelines. Although all of the test wells drilled by the State passed the State's required depth level, at least one well drilled by Roux Associates showed the water level was too high.

Another speaker presented State planning maps which showed part of the proposed site as "farmland" and part as "ecologically fragile." Placing a toxic waste incinerator on the site would be working at cross purposes to the State plan.

A lawyer for Great Adventure outlined the difficulty of evacuating 40,000 to 80,000 people in the event of spillage near the facility.

Several speakers noted that the area is rural with many farms, especially in neighboring Upper Freehold Township.

One of the experts told the commission of alternative technologies to the large mass burn rotary kiln being proposed, which include plasma arc, infra-red or electric reactor thermal destruction techniques.

Local Mayors Speak

Mayor Barth of Roosevelt read a letter from Senator Gagliano in which the Senator outlined the folly of building a toxic waste incinerator in such a lovely area.

Former Mayor Lippman of Millstone urged the audience to support a bill that would permit the siting commission to consider sites in the industrialized areas of the state. The bill would relax many of the restrictions in current state guidelines that are designed to ensure safety.

Much more testimony was given during the three-hour session before a very vocal audience (including quite a few from Roosevelt). The Siting Commission meets next on June 28.

Love of Life

by Joe Solomon

Those of you who read my article *The Year 5746* will have understood that my father's death in July, 1986 hit me very hard. He was 80 years old; he had lived a full life; he was loved, respected, and admired by everybody. But we weren't ready to lose him.

You can deny the death of someone dear to you all you want, but eventually you have to accept the fact. If you're lucky, you don't get to confront your parents' mortality until you're an adult. I was very lucky—I was already a grandfather. It was still no fun, you understand.

But in the process of confronting my parents' mortality, I also got to confront my own. If I'm going to live forever, it doesn't matter what I do with my days, because there will be an infinite number of them. But if I'm not going to live forever, then why am I going in every day to a job I don't like? (Let me point out that I used to like my job a lot. Then, unfortunately, there was a "political" change. I haven't liked my job since, and it obviously was never going to get any better.) Advice from Ben Franklin came to mind here: "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for time's the stuff life's made of."

Decision Time

It is not a good idea to make important, life-style, decisions when you are under stress. So I didn't. But I decided that the coming year (1987 or 5747) would be the Year of Preparation, I didn't know for what, but I did decide that I would leave my job—not right away, as noted above, but in my own good time. This decision was made somewhat easier by the fact that my youngest son, affectionately known as "Child 5," was due to graduate from college in May of 1987. True, he was planning to go to law school, but that's different. So, after all those years of supporting as many as seven people, it had come down to being required to support only myself. That shouldn't be so difficult.

After all my years at my present place of employ, I was angry at them for the way they were treating me—and, in fact, angry for the way they had treated me during most of my tenure there. My anger caused me to decide that, instead of resigning, I would stay long enough to make sure that I was vested in the retirement plan (a matter of another year or so), and then retire, thus forcing them to pay me something for my otherwise-unappreciated contributions to the well-being of the company.

At the beginning of 1987 (and hence several months into 5747), I signed up for four evening courses. Two of them were at my place of employ: Tuesday evenings, there was an eight week seminar on Retirement Planning; Thursday evenings, it was Spacecraft Attitude Dynamics and Control (in case I didn't retire). Mondays and Wednesdays, there were two independent courses on Talmud—one of those things I had always wanted to do. Also, the Monday series was for beginners.

As the months went by, it suddenly occurred to me—and became increasingly clear—what I really wanted to do. At my age, it was not going to be easy, or routine, but it might be possible, so I began exploring ways to accomplish my goal. One May Monday evening at nine, as we were packing up to leave Talmud class, I overheard one of my fellow-students say something to the rabbi about an interview. Curious, I

stayed, and asked him about it. Although he was then in his mid-forties, he had decided to become a rabbi. My response to this news? "That's funny, so did I!" My explanation of this decision was, "As long as my father was going to live forever, it didn't matter that none of his children became a rabbi. It turned out he wasn't, and now it matters." My father, be it noted, was a practicing pulpit rabbi for sixty years.

My classmate showed me a folder of information he had collected about a school called the Academy for Jewish Religion, in Manhattan. It should be pointed out here that most rabbinical seminaries expect their students to be in their twenties—and know a lot more than we did. Most rabbis decide on their vocation in their teens, or even earlier, and so have many years to prepare. We had had even more years to prepare, but had used those years for other things.

I called the number he gave me, and talked to the rabbi. She invited me to come in and visit the school one day, so I did. It was and is a small school, a friendly place. Among the admission requirements is an undergraduate degree; there were no teenagers. Most of the students—men and women—were in their thirties or forties, with widely differing backgrounds and preparations.

My view on higher education has always been: Let in everybody who wants to come; lower your admission standards—but don't lower your graduation standards. That way, you will admit students who don't have the necessary background, it is true, but they will have it before you let them graduate. You thus open opportunities to more people. It certainly never occurred to me that this policy would one day benefit me, but here it was.

I applied, and was invited to meet the Admissions Committee. Among other questions they asked was, "What kind of a rabbi do you see yourself as: a pulpit rabbi? a scholar?" After some thought, my response was, "I guess I can't see that far ahead." They sent me to see their psychologist, and then admitted me anyway.

School began August 31, 1987. We met early the first day, so we could go around the table and identify ourselves as to name and background. My reputation was made instantly, when I summarized my position by saying, "Actually, I'm only moving from aerospace to Celestial Guidance." There followed many similar remarks from me over the school year. At faculty-staff-student meetings, my colleagues have lined up to berate the psychologist for interviewing me and then letting me into the school.

We studied Hebrew (there's modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, rabbinic Hebrew, medieval Hebrew, ... not to mention Aramaic, the language of the Talmud); Talmud, Bible (the text and some of the major commentaries); the prayer-book; how to conduct services; homiletics (writing and delivering sermons); history; philosophy. Much of the subject-matter was new to me, and I had a marvelous time learning it. In fact, it was so wonderful that I didn't even mind dragging in to Manhattan all the time. (That is a very strong statement.)

The school year is over. I have now finished the first year of the four-year program. I shall be ordained at an age when most people are thinking of retiring. As noted, my father lived to be 80. His father, also a rabbi, lived to be 94. I figure I'll try being a rabbi, for twenty years or so. If I don't like it, I'll try something else.

Mayor Leon Barth: Roosevelt at the Crossroads

by Mark Zuckerman

"The next few years are critical ones," says Leon Barth, Roosevelt's twelfth Mayor. "We have to decide where Roosevelt is going. We're at the crossroads."

Mayor Barth is speaking from a special perspective, having grown up in the area and having lived most of his life in Roosevelt. Born 58 years ago to "one of about two Jewish families" in Hightstown, Barth attended Hightstown High, graduating in 1947. He and his family moved to Roosevelt in 1959; his wife, Helen, had lived here since 1936.

In addition to his job as Mayor, Barth works for the Princeton University School of Architecture, and has served as president of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Housing Corporation (with a brief interruption) since 1983. "I'm lucky that I do what I do during the day as both a vocation and an avocation," he says. His greatest love is taking care of the Pine Valley Swim Club—although he doesn't swim—because he enjoys making sure it functions. "I like to see things work."

This is the attitude he carries into government service, where he has served as a member of the Borough Council and as Mayor. Barth's political career began in 1969, when he was first elected to the Council. He served on the Council until 1975, when he was elected by the Council to complete the unexpired term of Mayor Bertram Ellentuck. Since then, he has run successfully for Mayor three times: in 1975, 1979, and 1987. Freda Hepner succeeded him as Mayor in 1984—and, as it turned out, preceded him as well. "I spent a wonderful four years in retirement."

He had anticipated that this "retirement" would be permanent, until a write-in campaign to elect him as Mayor—over his protests—was successfully waged last fall. He defeated the Democratic candidate, Ed Moser, who had been running unopposed.

The campaign received national media attention.

Out-of-the-ordinary campaigns are not new to Leon Barth. In 1979, he was defeated in the Democratic primary by Ralph Seligman, but received enough votes on the Republican side to run with that party's endorsement in the general election. "I enjoyed that race more than any other. That was a real campaign," says Barth, who defeated Seligman in November to win re-election. While he won with the Republican nomination, he is careful to point out that he never changed his party registration. "I've always been a Democrat," he insists.

Despite the tremendous work load, Barth enjoys being Mayor. "If I didn't have fun in this job, I wouldn't do it. That's why I took the decision of the town last fall," he says. Although he hasn't figured out what he likes best about being in government, he says he likes being involved with decision-making and dealing with other government officials. He also admits that it's "fun being recognized." But he adds, "The day I start to take these things too seriously is the day I'll get out."

Barth also enjoys playing a part in the political traditions of Roosevelt. While "the Mayor should take the lead, and serve as spokesman for the community," Barth feels that differences are healthy. "There are some communities where the Borough Council merely rubber-stamps the actions of the Mayor, and the residents hardly get involved with local government. While my job might be easier, I wouldn't trade places with those mayors. Not everyone should agree with my thinking." He would like to see more public participation at Council meetings. "I'd like to see the place overflowing. The community owes it to the Council. Everyone has a point of view, and I'd like to hear it expressed. The more the merrier."

Mayor Barth is proud of Roosevelt's traditions, and is concerned that

records of them be preserved. He is particularly concerned with making secure copies of the minutes of the Borough Council. Currently, the only copies of these minutes reside in bound volumes on a shelf in an unlocked safe at the Borough Hall. He arrived at our interview with a copy of the earliest surviving minutes of the Jersey Homesteads Borough Council, which are reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

However, his attention is very much focussed on the future. He says that Roosevelt must come to terms with development. "We're under some pressure from outside developers. We have two serious applicants before the Planning Board: Switchel and D'Amico. This is the first time we've had to deal with a serious applicant. It will be a long process, and it's new to most of us.

"If I were not in the position that I'm in, I might feel the same way as those opposing development. But the responsibilities of the job force me to look forward. We can't keep asking residents for more and more money for fewer and fewer services.

"We have to decide how we're going to go with road and infrastructural improvements. The sewage plant is a big project. But we have to remember that after the sewage plant comes the infiltration problem in the sewer lines."

Barth sees the Switchel proposal, which in its current form would create approximately 145 single- and multiple-family units on a tract north of Oscar Drive, as "still in the concept stage. This is a negotiable situation."

He says that the town needs land for all uses, including business. "We have to make it known that industrial land is available in Roosevelt. We've had difficulty in the past attracting business."

The Mayor grants that the discussion over development should be guided by the Master Plan, but is concerned that some of the Plan may not be realistic in light of the input from developers. He sees the upcoming debate over the Planned Community

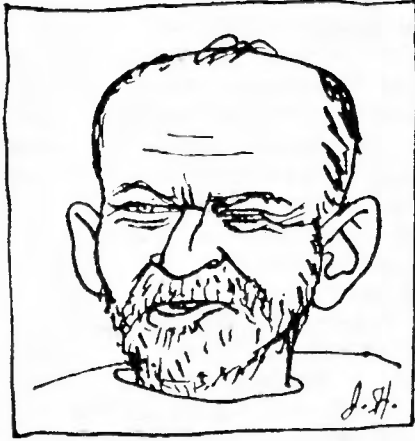
The Great Peace March

A New Book by an Old Rooseveltian

by Herb Johnson

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.
—Albert Einstein.

Today the only way to achieve genuine national defense for any nation is for all nations to give up violence altogether.
—Jonathan Schell, **Fate of the Earth**.



Development Ordinance, submitted to the Council by the Planning Board this month, as a good opportunity to discuss all the issues related to development.

Barth says that the Planning Board generally should reflect the philosophy of the Mayor. The Mayoral appointment to the Planning Board is the only appointing power the Mayor has. Last month, Mayor Barth named Dennis Connaughton to the Board. "I felt it was important to have the new young families in town represented. They're the ones who are inheriting this town and should be involved in decision-making."

Barth sees the Citizens' Group as basically a positive force in town. "If nothing else, they keep people on their toes. They dig up information that otherwise lies dormant." However, he offers this advice to the Group: "It's time they developed credibility; they need credentials. There should be names attached to what they do. Right now, they're amorphous and ambiguous."

The Mayor sees the *Borough Bulletin* as "an important instrument. I read every word. It's the way I keep informed. Everyone in Roosevelt should read the *Bulletin*."

Those are two of the nearly one hundred short comments that are strategically placed in the 208 margins of **The Great Peace March**, written this year by former Rooseveltian Franklin Folsom and Connie Fledderjohann. "Dank" Folsom, 80, scholar, writer, activist and Connie, teacher, artist, psychotherapist walked from Los Angeles to Washington D.C., from March 1 to November 15, 1986. Connie retraced the route in 1987 to interview people for this book.

On about 30 margins are 3 passport type photos of marchers. It looks as if they were taken by the authors on the day the march ended, everyone looks so strong, thoughtful and happy. Many other photos and 7 appendices are included.

More enjoyable yet is reading this fascinating story. Conservatives, liberals and others should enjoy reading it.

After prefaces, this book describes pre-march problems with David Mixner, founder of PRO-Peace, whose dream of raising \$20 million and of enlisting 5,000 marchers (who would each give 9 months and \$3,200—for a total of \$16 million) ended in bankruptcy and stranded 1,200 marchers (who had given an average of \$700 each) within 10 days after the trek began. But 18 days later 250 marchers continued.

With determination, ingenuity, tolerance and toughness, they organized ways to govern themselves and deal with natural, economic and political hardships. It could remind you of the early years of Roosevelt's development.

Folsom was elected to the 8-member Peace City Council and the 7-member Board of Directors, and re-elected when discontent called for new elections. When you read between the lines, you can see a powerful, gentle influence wielded by our town's honorary citizen "Dank" Folsom.

The titles of chapters 2 and 5 tell a lot. *Order out of Chaos*, and *Diversity, Diversion and Dissent*. "But how to strike a balance between spontaneous creativity and planned efficiency? Peace City was not the first community in the world to stumble around as it tried to solve this problem." . . . and many other problems!

The diverse life-styles and political outlooks of the marchers caused very serious problems. Many would not sign a contract to abide by the rules. Two anarchists were elected to the Board of Directors in June.

Pete Seeger visited the March a few times. He commented on the fact that the March stayed together, "when every tenet of logic dictated that it should have broken up. The disagreements over lifestyles were as strong as any group of human beings could have. But they agreed, 'We will arrive in D.C. at the same time, come hell or high water'. It shows how people can put aside great differences and form a consensus if they have some common goals."

On that same page (115), in the margin, is SANE/FREEZE'S Co-Director David Cortright's comment, in large letters, "On nuclear issues, paranoia about the Soviet Union has so paralyzed American policy that we have rejected some of the most historic peace overtures of the nuclear age." The authors seem to be saying that if very diverse marchers could see they had some important common goals and achieve them, the US and the USSR may do the same regarding global nuclear disarmament.

Much can be learned from this book, not only about issues and people across America. To get your copy, send check for \$12.45 payable to Franklin Folsom, PO Box 507, Boulder, CO 80306.

In Memoriam:

The Bulletin mourns the passing of Mary Jane Berlinrut. She was one of our guiding spirits, and we shall miss her.

Printed on these pages are memorials by three of her friends.

We honor her memory with these tributes, and with her own words.

Reprinted starting at the right is one of her "Inch by Inch" columns, which originally appeared in the June, 1984 issue of the Bulletin.

I have been dreading this day and moment because they call for eulogies—and Mary Jane seems too alive among us to need eulogies. I suspect she is going to be part of our lives in the future, as she was in the past.

Smoother, more plastic personalities slide away from us relatively easily. Mary Jane wasn't like that. She had edge and grain and splashes of fierce purple. She was the rare one who lived life from scratch, using no pre-mixed philosophies or packaged priorities. She was immune to trends. Her interests, thinking and judgments were her own, not abstracted from the *New York Review of Books*, or strained through art critics and political gurus.

Mary Jane responded to her life minute by minute, which may be why people of all ages found her exciting to be with. She had no facade at all; because of this, we needed none. Because she was always herself, we were freed to be ourselves.

She was laconic, ironic, wry and intermittently acerbic. She did not offer peace but engagement. Yet we knew, as we knew our own names, that beneath the fire and fizz, always accessible, was the kindest and most intuitive of friends and a patient listener. Mary Jane's center held. For she was a maverick who snorted and kicked but never swerved from the path of duty and faithfulness.

We all lose people we love, possessions we've treasured, gardens we've labored in and finally our health, but Mary Jane lost these things earlier, oftener and in harder ways than most of us. Her life required chronic courage. Her reserves of this staple were never drained. She was a stranger to self-indulgence, but there was none of the martyr in her.

In an era of specialization, Mary Jane was a generalist. Her fine education equipped and sensitized her fine mind and was a source of joy to her

(and us) every single day. She was an outstanding writer of prose and poetry, a gifted painter and sculptor, a knowledgeable and indefatigable gardener, a fine cook and handy with the needle. Intelligence and competence were two of the basic ingredients of her life-from-scratch, but she didn't flaunt her excellence like a feather in her cap, so she was easy to love.

Mary Jane was unusual in another way. Although the life of the mind was central to her existence, it never crowded out her passion for the physical world. She was a doer...never a poser. She didn't say she "loved" reading. She read and read. She didn't say she "loved" gardening, she made gardens. She didn't say she "loved" music, she made it and listened to it.

Her relationship with nature was very typical. She didn't claim to "love" birds and animals and flowers. She memorized their Latin names, learned their needs, studied their ways. Her bird feeder was not empty, and the house rang with telephone calls from friends and strangers asking her help with furred or feathered refugees and esoteric or obstinate plants. Her reference books were warm with use. They spent little time on shelves.

I don't want to leave out the fun. Mary Jane was urbane—and naive, witty and endearingly nonsensical. She got excited about little things just as a young child does and we first floundered then cavorted in the wake of her enthusiasms.

...Mary Jane Gray. Mary Jane Hannay. Mary Jane Berlinrut. She was each of these women in turn and ultimately all of them. And Mary Jane Gray Hannay Berlinrut remains alive in those of us who were lucky enough to know her well. By retaining her natural edge, she snagged us for the rest of our lives.

—Virginia Edwards Stout, from a eulogy delivered at the memorial

It was nine years ago when I moved to Roosevelt. Then, as many remember, North Valley Road was a narrow lane with yard trees on one side and a hedgerow on the other. To me, it was a strange, enchanting place to live—just the few houses and this astoundingly tall woman with long grey hair walking by on her husband's arm in the evenings. She was so awesome she made Peter look awesome too! Of course both of them turned out to be the gentlest and kindest of neighbors. But I never quite got over the sense of awe at her, not only because she was tall but because her unusual hardships had made her strong and lacking in self-pity.

Moving here after living in noisy, un-private conditions in the city, I was ripe to be seduced by nature. Inspired by Mary Jane's garden, which intricately wound through her entire yard, I plunged into my own, inept attempts to grow things. Lucky for me, she made it her business to instruct and encourage me, gave me the thinnings of her abundance. A total nature-ignoramus, I was always asking her questions, not just about how to grow things but birds, weather, everything. She became my mentor.

What she meant to me I can best say by telling of a dream I had when I moved to Trenton. It was in winter, February. I had come back for a visit. Mary Jane and I were sitting on a grass tuft on a lake. The water was clear, brown and mild. We were surrounded by the fine tangle of winter trees and vines. I babbled with wonder at such freshness, softness, purity. She responded just as she would have in actuality, cocking an eye at me and saying laconically, "It's just things as they always are, the trees and water." As if to say, what's special? We sat for awhile, then I saw something in the bank, among the knotted roots. Looking closely, I saw a plant, succulent and foreign looking, and blooming in a pale pink flower. I gasped, "How can something be blooming here in February?" (How was she going to be nonplussed at this?) She gave me her dry look again and said in her matter-of-fact way, "Oh they *always* bloom at this time of year."

As usual she was one way up on me, intimate with processes that were miraculous to me and simply ordinary

Mary Jane Berlinrut

to her. This made her, at least in my dream, more than a human. She was a goddess, no less than Demeter, and I might have been Persephone, visiting from Hell—a place with no trees or water.

For all her dry realism she was by no means insensitive to what was exciting me. She was simply more familiar with it. In spite of tragedy in her life, she felt its beneficence. In her last year of gardening, when the arthritis in her hip had become so bad she could no longer bend, kneel or squat, she attempted to work by lying full length on the ground. That's obsession for you, and, in gardening as in any art, it's the mark of the true professional. I like to think of her now as an indigenous spirit of the nature she loved, tended, studied, painted, and wrote in articles and poems; as she was in life to me.

—Dina Coe

My days have touches of her: The sweater on my back, the afghan for nightly winter warmth, the Chinese brush strokes displayed on the wall. But more, her words and the sense of her nature. The wisdom of how to approach and receive life—step over the brambles and swing around protruding branches.

We met many years ago in the factory where I had my clay studio. A tall, strong, proud woman who was quick of mind, eye and opinion. She gave you license to be equally as open. She was one of the few that I could go to when life seemed hostile and overwhelming. She had already been there, sword against the dragon, and had survived. I drew comfort. Even over the last years, as the piranha cancer consumed, she remained buoyant—conversant on current affairs, appreciating good music, ever conscious of Nature's happenings, ready to exchange ideas and information.

Every so often, on a given day, when the wind whips yellow weeds against a hard earth, and the hawk takes advantage of being lifted and turned by the currents in an opaque sky, I hear her. "Sometimes," she would say spade in hand, "a woman must dig."

—Ingrid Jordan

Inch by Inch

Forget the Product for a Minute

by M.J. Berlinrut

It came to me one day when I was surveying my garden—so different in reality from the image in my mind's eye—that the propelling force behind the inveterate gardener is more a certain set of the imagination than mere expectation of bringing to your table fresher, better-tasting vegetables and fruits, saving money, or beating the system. There's something in the nature of a calling about it, born, I think, of deep-rooted racial memory of Eden, lush, abundantly fruitful, where one could walk in the cool of the evening and say that it was good.

Before the Fall, that is. For the Eating of the Apple condemned us not only to troublesome struggles with the problem of good and evil but also to toil in the sweat of our faces (if I may transpose the text to fit my metaphor). Without the potent image of that cornucopia spilling out peppers, cauliflower, tomatoes, eggplants, all of an unblemished beauty and incredible size and plenty, what sensible person would persist before heat waves and no rain and riotously reproducing insects? Sense, however, has little to do with it. The image and impulse alike speak from a deeper layer of being in a voice stronger than nutrition and practicality.

By now it should be evident that the Muse I follow carries in her sack a mishmash of myth and folk wisdom, long-standing experience and a pinch—just a pinch—of 20th century Science. Profligate wanton that she is, she really scorns Science—you think you can beat *me* with your Science?—but she'll allow a little of it just so long as you remember that in the end it's *she* who calls the turns. For whatever you do and how much, it's not that glowing tomato that matters half as much to her as the expansion of spirit you experience in growing it.

Spirit, schmirrit, I hear you snort, gardening is hard labor! Yes it is, or it can be, if your main interest is in the end not the journey to it. Forget the product for a minute. It's been a long

hard winter; you've been cooped up indoors (unless you're a winter sports addict) clad in many layers of bulky clothing, cold of nose and feet (especially feet, in Roosevelt), assailed by winter-happy germs. One day, just to keep your spirits up, Nature throws out a mild sunny day. A few of those in succession and the winter birds begin to sing, daylight grows visibly longer and stronger, and everyone feels better.

The city dweller makes a break for park or country, the country counterpart scratches hopefully in the winter detritus looking for the pale spikes of bulbs poking up. The earth is waking from its long chill, and you are too. For despite all our technology, we're all subject to the great swings of Nature. Whatever our daily occupation or how far from a window we perform it, we do know what's happening outside, are concerned as to how it will effect our comings and goings, as witness our national preoccupation with the weather reports.

Let me quote from *Green Thoughts* by Eleanor Perenyi:

*The drought is serious,
the corn crop threatened,
lawns are burning up and
water restrictions forbid
us to water them. Turn to
the evening weather forecast
and there is a grinning
young man surrounded by
weather maps and radarscopes
to assure us we haven't a
worry in the world: The
threat of shower activity
has passed and it looks like
a gorgeous weekend. Or it
is winter and a snowfall in
prospect. Panic: It could
be as much as four inches
and travellers' warnings
are out... ((He's often
wrong, of course, but nobody
seems to hold that
against him and anxiously
awaits his next report.))*

continued on page 27

The Right Stuff: An Interview with June Counterman

by Adeline Weiner

If you tend to be as movie-minded as I am, and were called on to shoot a promotion film for Red Cross volunteers, I have the perfect Leading Lady for your movie: June Counterman of Roosevelt, NJ. Her healthy, blond, all-American good looks, and her warm, friendly manner would easily qualify her for the part; but better still, she's the real thing. June has been an ardent public-health volunteer for 18 years, not only as an original member, and then for the last ten years Captain, of the Roosevelt First Aid Squad, but she has run our annual Blood Drive for 7 or 8 years; and has been appointed three times over by the County Board of Freeholders to serve as Roosevelt's representative on the Monmouth County Board of Health, sometimes as President or Vice-President of the body.

The Portrait of a "Professional Volunteer"

June joined the Red Cross First Aid group in 1970 and took all the courses (basic, standard and advanced); then she took further work to become a certified instructor in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Advanced First Aid. She then went on to become, under NJ State Department of Health auspices, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and again an EMT instructor. This latter program gives training in childbirth, extrication (from vehicles), CPR, defensive driving (how to handle an ambulance through traffic), triage (distinguishing life-threatening injuries in a disaster situation).

Add to this many years of general teaching among people in the community of whom there are at least thirty Roosevelt applicants for CPR training (as well as those who come back for re-training to maintain their certification), and a good many classes out in the County during the last 12 years. June says of herself, "I guess I'm just a professional volunteer!"

All members of the First Aid Squad are trained in all the procedures cited above, either by June or through

regular course work. The number of hours of training that are taken by Squad members apart from active duty time is truly impressive and leads one to wonder how our community could demonstrate the appreciation we all feel beyond just giving in the Fund Drive. Perhaps a splendid annual banquet?

The Countermans moved into Roosevelt when Bill, working for the Institute for Defense Analysis in Princeton, was sent to Princeton University for special courses. They lived first on Homestead Lane, then Elm Court and now on Lake Drive. June met Bill at a church social in 1959 in her home town of Pasadena, Maryland, near where Bill was stationed in the Army. In junior high school, June had the good luck to have an excellent instructor in a course on First Aid that she not only liked a lot, but discovered she had a talent for. She feels that this combined with the sudden death of her brother in a frightful accident may account for her special interest in helping people in emergencies.

At one point in the interview, June sighed and said "it feels funny talking about myself when the Squad are all such good first-aiders." I could see her steer clear of anything that would seem the least boastful or self-centered. She was happy to tell about what she's done in her life, such as driving the school bus for ten years, including Special Ed. runs to special schools in Carteret, Highland Park and Princeton. She was a seamstress for a while, again having taken instruction for two years in that skill; and she is now a part-time baker for a general store in Allentown. But for all her experience in emergency medical situations, there is never an impulse to dramatize herself or even hint at seeking "credit" for such uncommon devotion to community service.

Having taken the CPR course myself, I was impressed with the matter-of-fact, totally straight-forward way June has of presenting information. She projects a complete lack of

"side," of pretension, of self-consciousness and that in my view is June's special distinction.

Almost as proof of a genuine modesty, June has no showy anecdotes to relate. When urged, her simple stories include one about the embarrassment of getting stuck in the mud in someone's back yard on a call that fortunately was not an emergency. She describes, on another occasion, how touched she was when a young girl called the ambulance because her dog had been hit and didn't know to whom she might turn. Yes, there was the drama of one dreadful night, in a heavy snowstorm, when they had to shovel a path to a heart patient's door and then get the State Police to snow-plow ahead to clear the way to the hospital. I began to realize that June's reticence in recalling incidents was also bound up with her professional concern not to divulge information that would identify individual residents. But that only illustrates the more how June tends to put others before herself.

As we talked I learned that June regrets not yet having had "the good luck" to deliver a baby, a feat that old-timers like Harry Katzenellenbogen or Nat Richter had done. Young mothers, she says, are so well prepared these days they always get to the hospital on time. June expresses her fondness for Roosevelt as a place where people are closer together, than in other towns. When they first moved here, there were very few Christian families and yet "everyone accepted us fully" and this, she says, was true in each of the three places they lived.

Although June is shy about her own role, she is very proud of the work of the Squad and its good record of service. Because we are a small town, she observed, we can respond to calls within three to five minutes whereas a larger community such as Millstone takes as much as half an hour. Roosevelt First Aid has an average of five to six ambulance calls a month and

continued on page 28

The Team Nobody Wanted

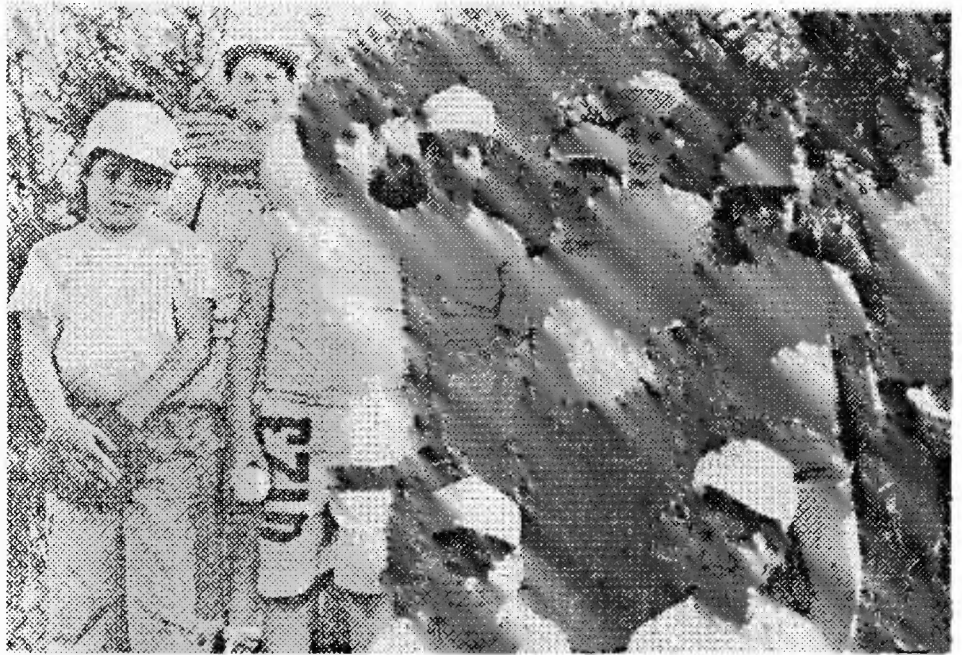
by Hortense Socholitzy

What has happened to our National Pastime—Little League grade?

There has been a grand mixup in the Millstone-Roosevelt Little League this year. Thirteen children had registered to play. Five had already paid their dues. Their parents' work bonds were paid. Much paperwork was completed. But because of inefficiency and apparent lack of interest on the part of League officials, there was no official team for them to join.

According to Gloria Hazell, League Vice President, she was instructed by Terry Brown, League President, to form a fourth minor league team. Within a few days, she had a manager, coaches, and sponsors for her team; but Brown apparently told her that he had been "only joking."

Nevertheless, the Renegades, as the new team was called, were permitted to play one game. Just before the second game, however, the coach of the opposing team informed the Renegades that he had been instructed by the Little League Board of Officers not to play the game. The reason given was that the team roster had not been



The Renegades

photograph by Donna Kaufman

forwarded to the Board; consequently the Renegades were not recognized as a team and therefore are not covered by League insurance.

As Andrew Hazell, father of one of the children affected, says, "Apparent-

ly the adult officers of the League have forgotten what Little League is all about—which is kids learning to play ball."

Inch by Inch

continued from page 25

Nightly, some variation on these themes is encountered in the grotesque ritual called the weather forecast. ... It is a frightening revelation of how insulated we have become from the natural world.

In ancient time, all phases of weather were personified, deified, because the "primitive" peoples alive then knew better than we how vital both warmth and cold, sun and rain, snow too, were to every aspect of our existence. But it's only the arbitrariness of the way our world runs that decrees we must take a weekend when the calendar says we must, though the weather may not be the best for what we want to do; we think only of the inconvenience to ourselves. Some of us, as we get older, even dream of one day

escaping the winter altogether by moving to the sunbelt.

What, then, of the southern summer, longer and more intense than ours and holding too the possibility of hurricanes and tornadoes? No, we can't escape weather and when we try, Nature is likely to pull some trick just to remind us who's boss. Could it be, I wonder, that the wild gyrations in weather the past couple of years are Nature showing her displeasure with Humankind's disregard of her laws?

It would be wise to cooperate with her, to appease her by taking her capriciousness in good spirit and find pleasure in participating in her great plan to the little we can, if only by planting a garden. So where's the pleasure, if there are so many unpleasures to contend with?

The pleasure is in the mind, in the knowledge that what you're doing has been done by the race since it first hatched the idea that it would be easier to grow one's own rather than to hunt and gather. Yes you get tired and dirty; a shower will refresh you, the dirt will wash off easily enough; but the sensation of holding the earth—practically twitching with microorganisms—in your hand will remain in your palm.

So whether you're a veritable member of the Order or aspire to no more than a flower border with maybe a few tomatoes, in this small way you restore dynamic contact between yourself and the source of all existence.

Reprinted from the Borough Bulletin, June 1984

Hail the Honkering Heroes

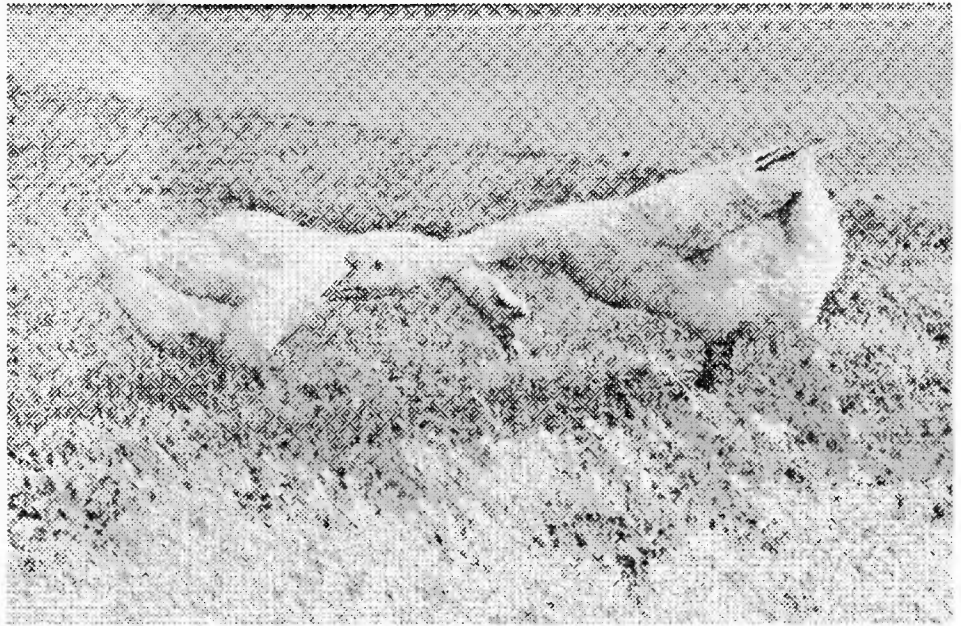
by Hortense Sochowitzky

Capistrano, California has its swallows; Stonington, Connecticut has its ospreys; and Roosevelt, New Jersey has its geese.

Surely all of us have seen the two white geese, a male and a female, who spend most of the day quietly on the grass verge along Route 571 opposite the gas station owned by Jack and Peggy Guyette. They are Egyptian geese, says Jack Guyette, whose daughter gave them to him as a birthday present almost two years ago.

Mr. Guyette is very fond of them. They spend their nights on his side of Route 571, where he has a small swimming pool for them. There they have built a nest, where the female has deposited eggs from time to time. Unfortunately, all the eggs have been devoured by dogs. Incidentally, the geese never swim in the little creek near where they spend their days. They swim at night, in the pool provided for them.

We asked how it happened that the geese, who have not been individually named by the Guyettes, found their way across the road. It seems that when people saw them in the yard, many began to feed them. Somehow the geese realized that their feeders crossed the road—so they (the geese) walked over to make it easier for their



photograph by Donna Kaufman

friends. By now, when one of the regular feeders approaches, the geese recognize him or her and make a noisy approach.

Mr. Guyette says he has had both positive and negative comments about the geese. Some people fear that they may run them down, injure or kill them. The Mayor has even talked about putting up a sign on the road—"Goose Crossing"—to warn motorists.

But the Guyettes feel the birds have shown that they can take care of themselves. In fact, they are good "watchdogs," setting up a loud complaint when a stranger, human or animal, appears at night.

Doesn't it seem most suitable that Roosevelt, a place a "little out of the ordinary," should have such out of the ordinary birds as mascots at the approach to town?

The Right Stuff

continued from page 26

is on call to Millstone and even Hightstown when they need assistance. They turn out for every fire call and provide transport for patients over long distances such as New York or Philadelphia at no charge. The new ambulance equipment is right up to standard with specially devised cots to fit through Roosevelt's narrow doors and hallways; with special stretchers for carrying people upright in vertical postures; still others for spinal injury cases, for emergency traction procedures, all designed to prevent a victim's temporary injuries from becoming permanent ones.

June was eager to use our talk to let everyone know that no one should hesitate to call for help; "don't be bashful because you think it isn't serious. We'd rather you call than wait until it really is serious." Hospitals are more than willing to accept any cases of chest pain or breathing difficulty, she reminds us. And if you see first-aiders wearing gloves, that's a precaution against AIDS, which these days unfortunately must be considered.

*Please
be sure to
complete
your survey
and return it
to the
Bulletin*

Our Thanks to Those Who Helped

With our last issue of this volume, the Bulletin would like to acknowledge the people who have contributed their money to make possible the publication of Roosevelt's newspaper. Thank you!

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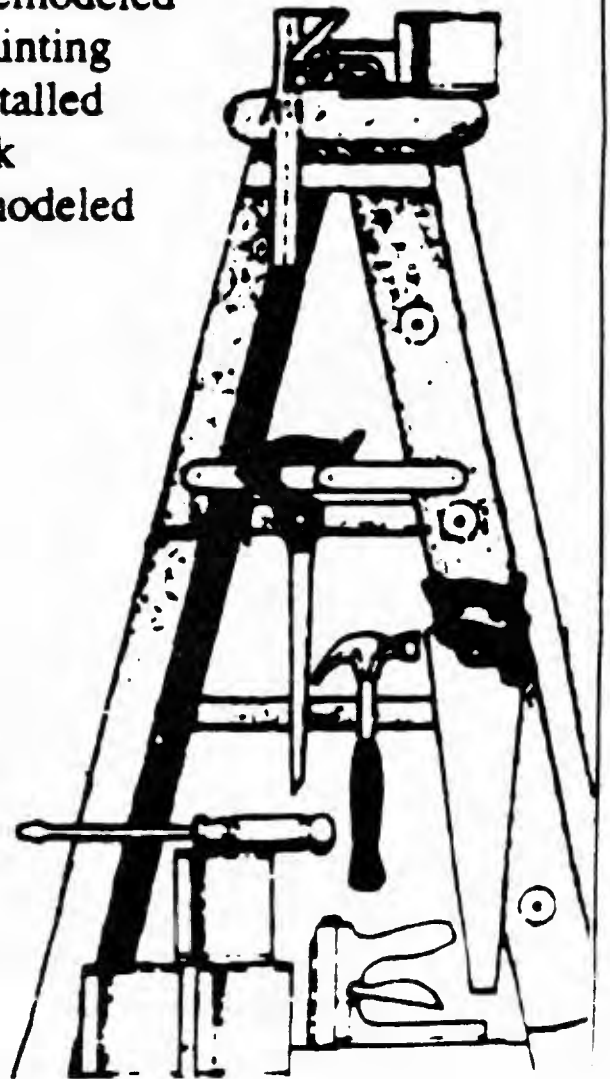
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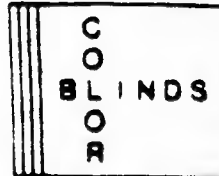
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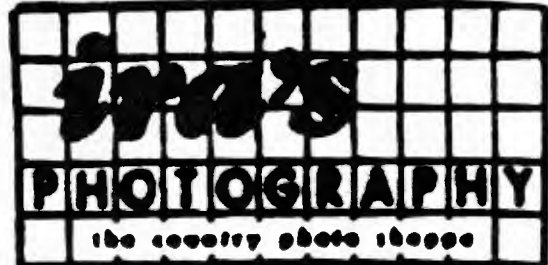
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR/JULY

SUN. MON. TUES. WED. THUR. FRI. SAT.



					1	2
3	<p>4 Independence Day Celebration 8 AM: Run-a-thon (Rochdale & Tamara) 2 PM: Parade & Picnic (RPS) [see page 3]</p>	<p>5 Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2 PM <i>Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259)</i></p> <p>Borough Council Special Meeting (Switchel Talk) Boro Hall, 8 PM</p>	6	7	8	9
10	<p>11 Sisterhood Synagogue 8:00 PM <i>Karen Block,</i></p> <p>Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8 PM</p>	<p>12 Food Co-op Ordering 8 School Lane 7:30 PM <i>Judith Goetzmann (443-4948)</i></p>	<p>13 Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM <i>Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870)</i> <i>Carol Watchler, Council President (448-5215)</i></p>	<p>14 Board of Education Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM <i>Ed Grossman, Board Pres. (448-9385)</i> [for schedule of Board committees, see page 4]</p>	15	16
17	<p>18 Congregation Anshei Synagogue 8:00 PM <i>Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363)</i></p>	<p>19 Food Co-op Distribution Borough Hall 1-8 PM <i>Bobbi Teich (448-5036)</i></p>	<p>20 First Aid Squad Drill Borough Hall 7:30 PM <i>Nancy Bauerle, Pres. (448-8725)</i></p>	<p>21 Board of Education Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM <i>Ed Grossman, Pres. (448-9385)</i></p>	22	23
24	25	<p>26 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM <i>Nancy Bauerle, Pres. (448-8725)</i></p>	27	28	29	30
31						

Is your organization having a meeting or event? Write the **Bulletin** (Box 221, Local) or call Helga Wisowaty (448-0049)