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ROOSEVELT
BOROUGH



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VOLUME IX NO 8

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

May 1986

COUNCIL REPORT

Water/Sewer fee increase proposed

By Peter Gould

An ordinance raising the water and sewer fees was introduced by the Borough Council at its regular meeting with the Mayor on May 15, 1986. According to Mayor Freda Hepner the ordinance will increase the water and sewer fees by \$3.00 to a total of \$50.00 per month for the average householder. This money is needed to effect repairs of Roosevelt's dilapidated sewer system, and the fees may need to be raised again next year, according to a letter written by Ferris Stout, Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee. The text of the proposed ordinance will be printed in the May 22 edition of the Messenger Press, and a public hearing will be held on June 11, 1986.

Mr. Louis Esakoff spoke to the Council on a number of issues including the use of the Borough Hall for private affairs. According to Mr. Esakoff, the recent use of the Borough Hall for a "funeral reception" was a private affair and therefore in violation of

the rules that had been established when he was a member of the Council. Mr. Esakoff was particularly concerned about the town's liability coverage if an accident should occur in the Borough Hall during a private function. Mayor Hepner said that the Council was aware of the issues surrounding the use of the Hall and that the question of liability coverage was being looked into.

Mr. Peter Berlinrut complained to the Council about the failure of the builder to complete work on North Valley Road. The Mayor assured Mr. Berlinrut that all legal means were being pursued in an effort to encourage the builder to finish the job. Mayor Hepner pointed out that the Borough will not return the bond, nor issue more certificates of occupancy until it is satisfied with the builder's performance.

The Borough Engineer, William Birdsall, spoke to the Council about the problems on Farm Lane with drainage

and flooding. One of Mr. Birdsall's recommendations was to clean the drain pipe that runs under the house of Tim Hartley at 31 Farm Lane.

Ms. Diane Simoncini discussed with the Council her plans to purchase a lot from Footlight Farm in order to build a private horse farm. According to a letter to the Council from Alan Mallach, Chairman of the Planning Board, the proposed lot fronts on a part of South Valley Road which "is not in use as a public street." In exchange for an easement from the Borough allowing access to the new lot from South Valley Road, Ms. Simoncini said that she would be willing to grant a scenic easement preserving 100 feet of open space on that part of the lot which backs on existing properties along the north side of Lake Drive. Mr. Mallach writes that those "existing properties... are among the very few in the Borough [that do not] have an open space buffer behind them."

At the request of Bernard Lefer, chairman of the Streets and Roads Committee, the Council appropriated \$2,500 to complete the grading and graveling of Eleanor Lane. The Council also resolved to award a contract to Harris Brothers, who submitted the low bid of \$33,390 for improvement of Homestead Lane. This contract is subject to approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, which is funding the project.

In his report for the Council's Culture and Recreation Committee, Chairman Ralph Seligman mentioned some of the events planned for Roosevelt's 50th Anniversary Celebration this Memorial Day Weekend. According to Mr. Seligman, the activities will include: at the Borough Hall: a reception, an art show organized by Jacob Landau, a play reading on Saturday evening; at the school: a memorabilia exhibit, and a dinner catered by the First Aid Squad. Mr. Seligman also said that Aaron Datz was organizing a crafts show, and that Senator Lautenberg will visit Roosevelt on Sunday to attend the celebration.

Ms. Carol Watchler, Chairwoman of the Administrative committee, gave the

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second reading of the Salary Ordinance (46a-14), which gives a 5% raise to Borough employees. The Council passed the ordinance unanimously. Ms. Watchler also reported that her committee was updating the Borough's personnel policy and that the town is still seeking a Water/Sewer Plant Trainee to assist the Water/Sewer Plant Operator, Thomas Karpick.

Councilwoman Lee Selden, Chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Roosevelt School passed a recent inspection by the Fire Department. Ms. Selden also advised Roosevelt residents that for safety's sake bicyclists should ride on the right side of the road (with the flow of traffic), whereas walkers and joggers should stay on the left side of the road (facing the oncoming traffic).

Councilman Ed Moser introduced three resolutions concerning the closing of the 3-M plant in Freehold. One resolution asked the 3-M Company to continue paying health insurance premiums for the workers who had lost their jobs due to the plant closing. A second resolution urged other municipalities and Monmouth County to support the first resolution. The

plant at the end of Pine Drive demands extensive maintenance. We have this year reconditioned both sewage pumps and their motors, and the dangerously corroded electric wiring has been replaced and relocated. It remains to clean out the settling (the "Imhoff") tank, and to recondition the trickling filters.

But these essential repairs do not address the source of our difficulties with the sewage system: the sewer lines themselves. The water plant pumps out about 120,000 gallons of water each day. But when it rains, we process over 300,000 gallons through the sewage plant. The plant is designed to process 250,000 gallons a day. We exceed that by 50,000 gallons much of the time. The difference is infiltrating swamp water. It overwhelms the plant. Worse still, the infiltrating water at flood time is loaded with sandy mud, which loads up the Imhoff tank and raises Cain with the sewage pumps.

The original sewer lines were made of two-foot lengths of concrete pipe joined by cement packed into the joints. The lazy fellow who cemented the joints only did the top half of the joint; the bottom half remained unsealed. Tree roots, attracted by the nutritious sewage leaking from the unsealed joints, invaded the joints. Since the lines run through low and swampy ground, the shallow-rooted trees fell over when the swamp flooded, taking whole sections of pipe with them. Out flowed sewage into the swamp; and a virtual river of swamp water flowed in. The result is a remarkable crop of skunk cabbage, a revolting mess in the woods, and a huge demand on the sewer plant, which now has to handle all the infiltrating swamp water.

In 1984 and '85, pressed by the State, we rebuilt the line through the swamp from Tamara Drive


to the end of Pine Drive. But we still have the infiltration problem, largely from the old line which runs through the woods south of Brown Street. That line has got to be fixed.

We borrowed \$95,000 for the new sewer line. In 1985, with the \$300,000 bond, 40% of the water-sewer budget went for debt service. We hope to avoid another trip to the credit well. Remember New York City in 1975?

The picture is not wholly black. We can, we think, deal with the remaining infiltration problem without replacing the whole sewer line and without further major borrowing. We can also cope, we think, with the remaining maintenance demands at the plant itself. To do all this without more long-term borrowing requires that your water-sewer fee be raised by three dollars this year; and, to be candid, probably again next year.

The State of New Jersey demands that we run an efficient and sanitary system. Until we do, we cannot add to the community any substantial development of new housing or industry.

In any case the demands of the State are, or should be, secondary. We value our woods and swamps, and the Assumpink creek which runs through them. We are responsible for their condition. We will keep them decent ourselves, not because the State is pressing us, but because we are decent people, and keep a decent town.



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EDITH ERNSTEIN

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IN MEMORIAM

Brie Jessica Lakin

1975 to 1986

Poem For BrieWhat Was This Child?

What was this child
Whose gift
in Dying
was to show me how I love?
By Jackie Algon

Eulogy For Brie Lakin

(Read at Brie's funeral, on 5/7/86)

Brie has brought us all together today.

But what a sad occasion for such a happy kid. And yet how fitting that her happy and outgoing spirit, her easy knack of making friends, her zest for life and love surrounded her with so many caring people. From Boston to New York to Florida, Roosevelt to Hollis to Princeton, she has gathered us up, together now in this town where she was always eager to return.

But who ever thought it would be like this?

We all thought she'd make it-- this healthy, exuberant, determined, stubborn, life-loving child. Strong Brie-- already an excellent skier, a gymnast who performed better with the passion of competition than she ever did in mere practice. This daredevil who loved the ocean and the breaking waves... and the bigger, the better. But this child, who once hiked 10 miles in a walk to aid the hungry, herself couldn't make it to her own 11th birthday.

Even when she was little, Brie's long outings in her stroller, her father pushing her through the brisk

air of Binghamton, gave her those lovely pink cheeks. They were the softest cheeks her mother ever knew.

The smiles of her whole family fell on this first grandchild, this child more a kid sister than a niece to Andrea's sisters, this big sister to Emily's adoring gaze, this pal to her mother and best friend to her father.

As these then- young parents learned to parent, she learned many of their wonderful traits. She got their love of good food, even in her name: though these days, you might more accurately have called her "Pizza". Like most people, she was a wonderful snarl of such contradictions. This healthy child-- who once wrote "Don't Smoke!" on a grandparent's cigarette pack-- nonetheless loved junk food. This loving child, like all kids, also knew how to tease, to get an uncle's goat.. and knew she knew and had.. and then you just had to return her knowing grin.

She liked, at the same time, heavy metal rock and the traditional music and movements of the contra dance. This preadolescent conservative about her mother's dress herself loved wild, colorful clothing and countless pairs

of bright, plastic earrings. She was developing a sense of style-- material, yes, in that this kid who'd been to Disney World more times than anyone could exactly remember, the last time chose shopping over the Magic Kingdom.

But this pre-teen "wanna-be" would have found out what she "oughta be" in substance. She was becoming more responsible: not losing her key--OK. But finding reward for her quick intelligence in school, undertaking personal challenge, growing more aware of herself, becoming her own person. And flowering into adolescence-- from Girl Scout to... boy, oh boy!

Not long ago, Brie went to a school dance. She raced home to get ready, hit the house at 3:30, and was showered, powdered and dressed to go by 4:30.. for a dance that began at 7:30. She had a great time: Three boys asked her to dance. I don't know how many she asked.

It was just that outgoing, unafraid, light-hearted, friendly spirit that drew people to her. The last two weeks--her last two weeks--an outpouring of love flowed from the Witherspoon School in Princeton, from friends touched by Brie in the fraction of her school year there. "Bootsie wants you to know that if she was ever mean to you, she didn't mean to be," they wrote. "Please-- come back and hang out with the cool ones."

"The cool ones"... and so she will, here in this cemetery.

In her coma, she did not suffer. But those close to her go on feeling pain crack through numb disbelief. Her mother, with all the love and concentration of an artist, teacher, parent, could not will life back into her. As Brie lay in the coma, her father's disciplined mind struggled to comprehend this incomprehensible disease. From his hope and memories and heart he spoke continually to her, embraced her, caressed her, kneading love into her muscles. But all the love-- and the best of care-- couldn't reawaken the life of her mind.

So Brie has gathered us here, even while she has slipped from our grasp. Yet though we have no Brie to embrace,

no warm hand to squeeze, our hearts overflow with love and compassion for her. And for her loved ones: Let us reach out to them-- her parents, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the grieving family embraced by this caring community. Let us express with a touch, a hug, what words just can't convey-- the shock and sorrow of such a senseless, random loss.

Let us then say good-bye to Brie, yet embrace her life. (And grasp the living-- literally-- if you can reach out to those close to you, please.) For those of us who believe this life is all there is, Brie's love of life is lesson enough.

For those with faith, one way or another, there is perhaps comfort in some words of Dylan Thomas. Of another girl, another senseless, outrageous death, he wrote of the "all-humbling darkness." And, if we may today amend his words slightly, he ended:

*...Deep with the...dead lies Lakin's daughter,
Robed in the long friends,
The grains beyond age, the dark veins
of her mother,
...After the first death, there is no other."*

By Jim Dulicai



Memorial Fund

Contributions are being accepted for the Brie Lakin Memorial Fund c/o Bogatz and Shore, 261 Franklyn Street, Hightstown, NJ. The money will be used to buy a piece of artwork for the Roosevelt School and Witherspoon School in her memory. Whatever is left over will be donated to the Reyes Syndrome Foundation.

The Pioneer Women of Roosevelt honor the Anniversary of the State of Israel. There are many Hebrew words that we Americans have adopted into our language, such as; Shalom; Mazel Tov; Minyon; Mitzvah; Aliya; Kibbutz; and so on but we must add to these words two holidays important in Israel and very important to American Jews.

These holidays are: Yom Ha'Atzmaut (or Anniversary Day, this year on May 14th) and Yom Ha'Zichoron, (the day of Remembrance) of those fellow Jews who forfeited their lives in the Holocaust, the underground "wars" before the establishment of the State, the war of Independence of 1948 and the wars of 1956, 1957, 1973 and the untold number of terrorist attacks.

We must never forget.



Congratulations to David B. Vitolo on receiving a PH.D. in Soils and Crops from Rutgers University. His dissertation is titled: BARNYARD GRASS (ECHINOCHLOA CRUS-GALLI)-WHITE POTATO (SOLANUM TUBEROSUM) COMPETITION. David has accepted a position with Ciba-Geigy as a research specialist at their Northeast Research Station in Livingston, New York.

Poets, Writers, Artists. Take Note

As per tradition (and who can argue with tradition?), the Bulletin plans to publish an arts, poetry, etc. supplement, this year as part of our June issue.

We're seeking poems, very short stories or pieces, epigrams, favorite sayings, drawings, photographs, jokes, etc. Deadline is June 11

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LOVE OF WORDS

A few delicate remarks about Euphemisms

By Josef G. Solomon

Someone once defined a synonym as "a word you use when you don't want to use the other one". A euphemism is a word or phrase used in place of another that is considered harsh, obscene, or otherwise unsuitable.

Sometimes, the reason for using a euphemism is delicacy of feeling. Sometimes, the motive is deceit. We have seen many examples of both. Evelyn Waugh's novel "The Loved One" is a parody of the funeral industry, especially in southern California. Death is a subject that really brings out euphemisms. In that novel, workers at a pet cemetery never used the words "death", "dead", or "dying". They used, instead, words like "passed on", "gone to his reward", etc.

Other Names for "Murder"

The CIA has its own euphemism for death. When they ordered someone to be murdered, they described the victim as having been "terminated with extreme prejudice". "Terminate", of course, is itself a euphemism for firing. If an employee leaves his place of employ, and they plan on not hiring him again, he is said to have been "terminated with prejudice". Generally, however, he remains alive-- unless, as noted, he is terminated with extreme prejudice. It does sound extreme, all right. In his novel, "Marathon Man", William Goldman used another euphemism for murder: "retire", as a transitive verb. That is, a report to your superior might mention that you had retired an agent for the other side. The idea is, these agents never live to retirement age.

The use of euphemisms can make the unthinkable thinkable. In Nazi

Germany, no one (I hope) would have agreed with Hitler's proposal to murder all the Jews of Europe; instead, he referred to it as the "Final Solution" to Europe's Jewish Problem. Everybody likes final solutions, rather than temporary ones, and Hitler well-nigh succeeded in making the entire continent of Europe "Judenrein". Incidentally, what was the Jewish population of Germany when Hitler came to power? People guess all kinds of numbers. The approximate answer is 250,000--- out of Germany's population of some 50,000,000.

No doubt, the American people would never have tolerated an invasion of Cambodia by American troops--so that isn't what it was called. President Nixon referred to it as an "incursion", and that made it all right. Senator Eugene McCarthy claimed that the administration had picked that word because it was a noun without a related verb, and that made it more difficult for critics to talk about it. If it had been an invasion, you could ask, "Why did we invade Cambodia?", but you couldn't ask, "Why did we incur into Cambodia?" An interesting theory, and maybe even correct.

Another Dig at Victoria

The rise and descent of words is sometimes amusing. "Undertakers" became "morticians", and then "funeral directors". In Victorian times, "leg" was a dirty word. One referred to a woman's "limbs", instead. You couldn't even talk about a chicken-leg, or a piano-leg. Some homes had cloth covers for the legs of the piano, so that visitors wouldn't be embarrassed by seeing the piano-legs naked. Presumably, the

offending objects were referred to as piano-limbs.

When the chamber-pot was no longer under the bed, the room that contained it was called the "necessary room". When indoor plumbing arrived, life became much pleasanter, of course, but euphemisms for that room remained. The process of washing and dressing used to be called "performing your toilet"; the word was borrowed for the room. As frequently happens, the euphemism itself subsequently became a dirty word (or, at least, no longer polite), and "toilet" was replaced by "bathroom".

A friend reported on her trip to Greece to meet her husband's family. After a while, she asked where the bathroom was. Her hosts were puzzled by why she would want to take a bath in the middle of the day, but they directed her to it. Inside the room was a bathtub, all right-- but no water closet (another euphemism). That was in another room, whose name, alas, I have forgotten. We simply don't pay any attention to the words we use all the time. Unless you stop and listen, you won't realize that "bathroom" is another euphemism-- unless you really mean a bath.

Taking a Bath Again

On the subject of taking a bath, here it is tax time again. The Reagan administration came into office vowing to cut taxes, and never, never to raise taxes. (The day before Ronald Reagan became president, the American people were still the least-taxed people of all the developed countries.) However, although President Reagan did drastically cut government spending on social programs, he drastically increased government spending on military programs. The increase in spending on the military more than made up for the cuts in social programs; combining that with the significant decrease in taxes resulted in budget deficits of astounding proportions. How long can you run deficits of \$200 billion? For a while, it seemed that the administration would have to raise taxes

after all. Fortunately, someone came up with a euphemism. It wouldn't be raising taxes: It would be "revenue enhancement". Is it necessary to point out that the revenue means nothing else except raising taxes? Anyway, they changed their minds, and didn't do it.


One interesting game with euphemisms is "Comparison of Adjectives". Example: I am firm; you are obstinate; he is pig-headed. You note that the level of euphemism depends on who is being described.

Not all euphemisms are bad. The proof is that some euphemisms are mine. Just one example: During my undergraduate days as a physics major, I sometimes spent several hours studying ballistics, trajectories, and coefficients of restitution. One can certainly study those in a physics lab-- but my "lab" was a basketball court.

Editor's Note

These are some of my favorite euphemisms. Please send in yours. We'll publish them (Keep them clean).


1. Pacification center- Concentration camp.
2. Incontinent ordinance- Off-target bombs, usually when they kill civilians.
3. Strategic Withdrawal- Retreat when our side does it.
4. Undocumented Workers- Illegal Aliens.
5. Life Insurance- Death insurance.
6. Occasional Irregularity- Constipation
7. Internal Revenue Service- Tax collector.
8. Ecology Inc.- Name of old Nuclear Engineering Co., which runs waste disposal sites for chemical and atomic wastes.



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SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS.

At the May 6 meeting of the Senior citizens Mr. Freeman, the Under-Sheriff of Monmouth County, and two assistants spoke and showed a film about the various divisions that compose the Sheriff's Department. "Ident-Adult" cards were distributed and those wanting one had their right thumbprints made. These cards aid the police, first-aid and para-medics by providing information used to notify the person's doctor and family.

On Mondays, at the community center of the Solar Village from 12 noon we are welcome to bring lunch and enjoy coffee, tea, etc. with each other. Plans are being made for a luncheon and also a trip to the Garden State Arts Center in June.

Ann Desoto would like Seniors to consider baby sitting, and anyone interested can call her.

The New Jersey Federation of Senior citizens will have their convention at the end of May (Thursday and Friday). Members are urged to attend.

Our club will have its election in June.

By Helga Wisowaty

Engaged

John and Geraldine Millar announce the engagement of their daughter Eileen to Richard Benedict. They will be married Saturday September 20th, 1986 at 12:30 from St. Anthony of Padua Church in Hightstown followed by a reception at her parents' home on Lake Drive.

Graduated

Elizabeth C. Millar graduated from Montclair State College on May 29, 1986 with a Bachelors Degree in English and Minors in Paralegal Studies and Journalism. Her future plans are uncertain at this time.



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Fiftieth Spring

Who dreamed this green town?

Who paid the taste of a thousand ghettos
to make this place a town?

Government planners hoped a utopia, concrete
slab roofs and floors, cinderblock walls
by government dreamed.

Mother's in tenements dreamed this green town.

Workers in sweatshops dreamed this green town.

Dreams wrinkle. Dreams grow gray. Dreams have
their winter.

This is the fiftieth spring to be seen in this town.

It isn't what it was.

It wasn't what it could have been.

It can be what we dream it is,

This town, this fiftieth spring,

Woodsmoke blue between the first stars and the
buried sun,

Woodsmoke sharp to the nostrils in the April dark walking,

Hawks above the watertower, moles under the lawn,

Shrews booty in the teeth of the proud house cats,

Odors of motion, deer gashed by headlights on a

furrowed field.

Who turned this town's earth for the first garden?

Who groped for the gift of affection on the first bed?

Fed the first child? Sawed the first bookcase?

Sewed the first curtain? Watered the first forsythia?

Painted the first painting?

Who first heard the bees feasting on forgotten fruit

beneath the branches?

Rich with the dust of dreamers, earth invites us all

Beyond the watertower where the graveyard slowly grows,

Cut names, the names we know on the stones on the graves
bordering the cornfield,
The dreamers and doers who took their death here.
Who of us newcomers brings a dream?
I think of the dreams in the cemetery earth,
I think of the dreams in the children who learn to walk
on closecropped lawns and under the flowering cherry,
I think of the houses with dreamers who welcome our knock,
I think of the brother who opened our dreams in the grass
of us, brother who entered his earth near the cornfield,
I think of my son at eleven, tawny dirt on the blade
of the shovel he lifted to fill his loving uncle's
grave near the cornfield,
I think of my neighbors and all of us entering the roots
of the young corn,
I think of us entering animal and bird,
I think of my wife and my son and self, all family, friends,
as we soar in the hawk's guts.
Who of us newcomers brings a dream?
This fiftieth spring.
The woodsmoke lingers like a lost childhood on the road.
Apple petals drop like little pink moths who have forgotten
how to fly.
Who dreamed this green town?
Whose ancestors ached in a thousand ghettos to make
this place a town?
It isn't what it was.
It wasn't what it could have been.
It can be what we dream it is.
Though faces change, the seeds of dreams
continue green in you and you.
There's young old love in the woodsmoke yet.

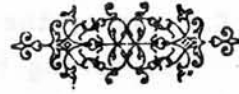
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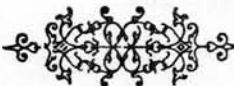


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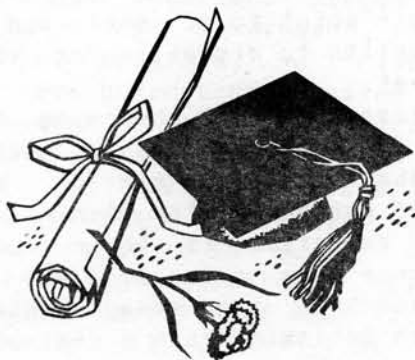
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ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 1986

2	MONDAY	10:00AM	PLAYGROUP	BORO HALL
3	TUESDAY	10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
		2:00PM	SENIOR CITIZENS	BORO HALL
4	WEDNESDAY	7:00PM	BOOKMOBILE	P.O. LOT
		8:00PM	PLANNING BOARD	BORO HALL
5	THURSDAY	8:00PM	BOARD OF EDUCATION	RPS
		10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
9	MONDAY	10:00AM	PLAYGROUP	BORO HALL
		8PM	BORO COUNCIL AGENDA	BORO HALL
10	TUESDAY	10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
11	WEDNESDAY	8:00PM	BORO COUNCIL	BORO HALL
16	MONDAY	10:00AM	PLAYGROUP	BORO HALL
17	TUESDAY	9:30AM	SENIOR'S HEALTH PRGM.	SOLAR VILLAGE
		10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
		1:00PM	FOOD CO-OP	BORO HALL
18	WEDNESDAY	7-8:30PM	BOOKMOBILE	P.O. LOT
19	THURSDAY	10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
21	SATURDAY		EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION	RPS
23	MONDAY	10:00AM	PLAYGROUP	BORO HALL
			LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	
26	THURSDAY	10:00AM	EXERCISE CLASS	BORO HALL
30	MONDAY	10:00AM	PLAYGROUP	BORO HALL



CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates

ISSUE & DEBATE

Are we short-changing ourselves on graduation day ?

by Peter Berlinrut

I usually attend the graduation exercises at our school and I have missed very few since my arrival here in 1953. I gulp as I write that date and realize that was a full thirty-three years ago. It is a bit jarring to realize that the youngsters who so self-consciously and proudly walked up to whoever was distributing the diplomas to claim theirs are now between forty-six and forty-eight years old. Middle-aged adults, parents and possibly grandparents! The thought is a bit racking.

Probably the essential feature of graduation exercises that touched me most (and still does) is that they mark a milestone. They celebrate the passage of time and the fateful movement from one stage of life to another. They are the hoops evolved by history and society through which we have to jump successfully to prove we have earned the right to be accepted as initiated members into the social order, qualified to practice its skills and its knowledges. Consequently I regard the occasions as a mixture of solemnity and exhilaration.

That brings me to the point I want to make: I think we have been short-changing ourselves in recent years. And let me hasten to add I hold no one to blame, I think it is a collective development in which everyone has collaborated in way or another.

Some years ago there was a widespread social movement (its origins are mysterious albeit fascinating) to purge graduation exercises of their dross, their falsities, their blather. It seemed to me then all to the good. Down with the invited dignitary who would drone away with platitudes for forty-five minutes (boring the day-lights out of everybody)! Away with

the ungifted graduate who tortured the piano or tormented an innocent violin to the delight only of his or her parents. Out with the distribution of prizes for best essay, for citizenship, for scholastic achievement and so on.

I wasn't so sure of the latter point. It was justified to me (as I seem to recall it) by a member of the then Board of Education who thought that in classes customarily as small as those in our school, it was too strong a mark of inferiority for those who received no prizes. It would stay and linger with them and cripple them for achievement in later life. That carried a fair degree of plausibility.

It was this situation that set the stage for another development that seemed incidental then and in spirit with this trend of purging our graduation exercises of deadwood. That was the abandonment of the essay contest on the life and works of Benjamin Brown. It was claimed that all that could be known or thought or said about this key person in the founding of the Jersey Homesteads (as Roosevelt was known until 1946) was clearly established and that it therefore seemed a useless effort for the members of each graduating class to compete in hunting for something new to bring out. That also seemed a fair point to me then and I had no objection to discontinuing this essay contest.

After some years of observing the situation, I have come to some second thoughts about it. I now do not believe that paring or streamlining our graduation exercises to their functional essence is a success. Nor is the abandonment of the essay contest dealing with Benjamin Brown a desirable move, not entirely at any rate.

About the first, I believe it is a

mistake to omit ceremony and pageantry from the celebration of life's milestones. It ends up as no kind of gain for anything; on the contrary, as an impoverishment that denies any culmination to daily life.

Deep in the human breast is a belief that day-in, day-out effort is a process of glory-in-the-making, to some special consummation. Graduation should embody or reflect it. We need to be resourceful in devising a little pageantry, ceremony, music for the occasion. And if it fails in any specific instance, at least we've tried. The intention to invest the occasion with exhilaration and solemnity, even if it comes off a bit lame, is still halfway there.

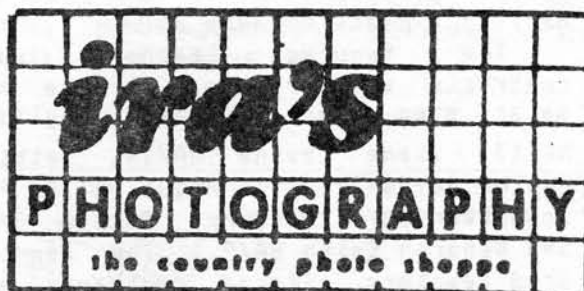
The second point, the abandonment of directed interest in the founding of Roosevelt (whether in an essay contest or some other way) is in equal need of review and reevaluation. Roosevelt was born of the intense ferment in the country during the Thirties when widely differing views agreed in one way or another on a need for change and improvement in the social institutions that rule our lives.

Putting it this way eliminates the controversy as to whether Benjamin Brown or Rex Tugwell or Eleanor Roosevelt or other unnamed persons or agencies is or are to be credited as founder or founders of the town. It was in the truest sense, a collective development. It was a convergent destination reached by different roads. Its basic idea was simple: let the federal government pioneer small experimental towns in which industrial workers in the big cities were moved out and settled in a more natural environment, earning a living in a cooperatively owned factory and free to live the good life, the fulfilling life.

The degree of its success or failure is not in point here but I believe it safe to say it had a measure of both. Whatever the case, it was a noble idea. And the children in our school (as well as we adults in a different way) ought never to be allowed to forget it.

Graduation exercises are a fitting time and place to be reminded of it annually. Whether it be in the form of an essay read by a graduate or some other way (I don't want to compromise a sound idea by holding it to a restricting application) we could all profit from being reminded of what Roosevelt stands for. If it were in the form of a graduate essay, the subject wouldn't have to be confined to Benjamin Brown. It could be anything associated with the birth of the town. (Example: Rochdale Avenue is so named for a highly relevant reason).

I think most of us can agree that important as are the sciences and the humanities in a sound education, it is just as important for the young to be awakened to the what, where, why, and how of the communities they live in and of their responsibility for shaping them with vision and courage. In that respect, the founding of Roosevelt can teach them a lesson and serve as a guiding star. This is a nice town and it didn't happen by accident or mindless development. It happened because during the crisis of the Thirties, there were stubborn minds that held out for a better way for people to live together.



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SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By H. Johnson

The School Board Election and the vote on the School budget gave the following results: Dominic Vigiano, as write-in candidate, Arthur Unger and John Burghardt, incumbents, were elected to 3 year terms by 39, 75 and 83 votes respectively. The current expense budget of \$422,068 was approved by the vote of 56 for and 51 against.

The Board elected John Burghardt as president and Margaret Katz as vice-president. It regretted that Mary King would no longer serve after completing her 3 years, 2 as president. The board members and public recognized the consuming nature of the service she volunteered for our community.

The Board approved of all textbooks, curricula, bank accounts, the Trenton Times (for publishing public notices), rules, policies, by-laws and procedures which had been approved by last year's board. It approved of continuing Josephine Cavalluzzo as Board Secretary, and Howard Prezant as Custodian of School Moneys, and of first and third Thursdays of each month as regular official Board of Education meeting nights.

Board member Marilyn Vitolo resigned, due to her moving to Hudson, NY. The Board posted the need for people to apply to serve this year in Marilyn's place by June 6.

The tenured teachers whose contracts were renewed at the next salary step are: Elizabeth Gagliardi MA/13, Ilene Levine MA/14, Kathleen Hawthorne BA/11, Anne Hogue MA/14, Faye Josephson BA/5, Margaret Ostove BA/5, and Deborah Smith BA/9. The non-tenured teachers offered contracts are: Carolyn Kellisch BA/10, Carolyn Ksell BA/10, Andrea Sweeny MA/3, Joanne Cohen MA/10, and Janet Peters BA/5. "BA" indicates Bachelor of Arts degree; "MA", Masters; and numbers, the salary step. The first five tenured and the first two non-tenured are full-time teachers. The other 8 are employed for

an average of just less than half-time. Roberta Hoffman will not return in September because she is moving to Indiana. Judy Staggard, a half-time teacher as is Ms. Hoffman, was not offered renewal due to "reduction in staff."

National Teacher Appreciation week was celebrated in April. The National PTA pointed out that although improvement in our educational system are needed, the problems must be kept in perspective. Hundreds of thousands of American Teachers continue to bring professionalism and dedication into their classrooms each morning. The Challenger space shuttle teachers, along with many others, are reminders that the best and brightest students have been drawn to teaching as well as other careers. The PTA gave flowers to all teachers and Margaret Schlinsky, PTA President, wrote a letter to the Board complimenting teachers highly.

Dr. Sussman, principal and chief school administrator, was asked to consider having a special program for older students, as Manalapan Township did in April, in which Rutgers University professors describe the horrors of nuclear war, the extent of nuclear arms build-up around the world, and the prospects for ridding the world of nuclear arms. In connection with this, Dr. Sussman reported that he informed teachers about a public television program during school hours two days in May, in which 4 foreign exchange students in Pennsylvania, from Sweden, France, South Africa and Japan, discussed the nuclear arms race and the Chernobyl accident, with American students from Virginia to Alaska.

Among many actions the Board took this past month, it approved advertising for bids to insulate the gymnasium ceiling with 9" fiberglass and install an impact-resistant dropped ceiling below it.

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Remembering Brie

Brie, The Friend Worth Caring For

By Dustin

One time I went over to her house to play and we built a fort with a blanket in her house. Another time I went over her house, we played with her Apple IIc computer she had. We made monsters with a monster-making kit. Almost every time I came over we played with her pet bird. The last time I played with her, we played football. She slapped me in the face, took off with the ball, and by the time I knew what had happened, she scored a touch down! She was a great friend and I'll never forget her.

We remember Brie for the things we shared with her. We shared fun times, happy times, scary times, and sad times. We shared fun times when we went to places where we had lots and lots of fun together. We shared fun times at Sesame Place. We shared happy times when we went to each other's birthday parties. We shared scary times when we went to movies, like "Gremlin" and "Ghostbusters" and got scared together. We shared sad times when she never turned eleven. We will treasure these memories forever.

Sincerely,
Anya and
Lola

As a good friend, Brie would call me up every day and ask to play games with Keith and Chris Suk and me. One day I went over to her house and for the first time played a computer game. Whenever she'd come to my house, we'd play games like "Knights and Queens" with the Suks, and the last time I saw her, she plowed over me in a football game.

In school she was very smart. One of her favorite games (and one of her best) was "Capture the Flag". She and Anya had to be stopped for going so high on the tire swing.

Barry

We remember Brie for getting in trouble with Lola and Anya on the tire swing for going too high, being a good sport, and always being kind to friends. She got good grades and she always cooperated with her friends. She always had good ideas, and was never boring. If you went to her house, she always thought of something fun to do.

Throughout her happy life, she had good friends.

Sincerely,
Abe Schlinski
Gregory Zaleski

I didn't know Brie very well, but I do remember the time I was walking down the hall, and Brie kept going back and forth, not letting me go back to class.

Bryan Unger

I lived next door to her, and Brie and I used to pick raspberries in her raspberry bushes. We used to play kick-ball and she always beat me, like 58 times.

Steven Antosky

We remember Brie for her playfulness and always knowing what to do when we were playing a game. She was always good at doing things and she had a lot of friends. Almost all of the 4th and 5th graders were good friends with Brie and we will never forget her.

Christa Manzi

I Remember Brie

One time I went over to Brie's house and we made a fort in her room and hid under it and looked at her butterfly collection. She was one of the best friends I ever had- and the strongest friend I ever had. She used to beat me up. I'll never forget her.

Chris Morris

I remember Brie as a playful girl with many friends. She always had something to do and knew how to do it right. Even though she didn't live long, she had a happy playful life.

Evelyn Schlinski

I didn't know Brie as a friend but I would have liked to.

James Sweeney

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