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# ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



# BULLETIN

Published by Roosevelt P.T.A.

Vol. V, No. 4

Roosevelt, New Jersey

December 1981

## Council considers land development fees, tree cutting licences, moth control, water problems

By Carol Watchler

In its December meeting the Council of the Borough of Roosevelt unanimously passed the first reading of two ordinances. In one case, a Development Review and Tree Ordinance, established a fee schedule for the application fees related to development of property.

The other ordinance, proposed to regulate the cutting and removal of trees from lands of the borough, calls for the designation of trees by the Borough Board of Park Commissioners appropriate for cutting and the requirement of a permit for cutting that may be issued to any resident who uses a fireplace or woodstove for heating. The permit would be valid for 14 days, and will cost the applicant \$10.

A report was brought to the council regarding the problem of gypsy moth control from the borough's Environmental Committee. This group was largely in support of participating in the State department of Agriculture's program using Dipel, an insecticide which specifically attacks the gypsy moth.

This program would cost the borough \$8,800 and would require a referendum. The commission was evenly split on the question of the use of Sevin which could be provided by the county in a spraying of residential property only. In both cases the agency doing the spraying needs to be notified during December whether any municipality wished to participate in its program. Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes moved that the council put the issue of appropriating \$8,800 for Dipel in the State's program to a referendum. This move was not seconded but was followed by a motion from Councilman Bill Counterman to inform the county that the borough would subscribe to the Sevin program with the additional recommendation to the board of freeholders that they add the use of Dipel. The motion passed with one dissenting vote from Magnes.

The council moved to approve the inclusion of a pre-chlorinator in the contract for the water treatment plant. In other action related to the water treatment plant

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## council

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project Mayor Barth reported information from Max Berkowitz of Farmers Home Administration that the council needed to decide whether to close the project at the completion of Phase I or go for bids on Phase II, the construction of a solids contact unit. It was moved that FmHA be notified that the borough will not go ahead with Phase II of the water treatment plant. The motion passed unanimously.

Aaron Datz of the Public Works Committee reported that the borough would need to go through a process in the spring of clearing sludge from the water tower.

A proposal for environmental services for the borough has been presented by Environmental Associates represented by Eric Nemeth. The services would include provision of a licensed operator on call, required water quality testing, part time water and sewer plant operation (2 days of 4 hrs.) and a review of current requirements all at a fee of \$750 per month. According to discussion at the Dec. 7 agenda meeting this could replace the use of services of Chmiel and Kowalski at \$800 per month, plus testing of water presently costing \$86/month, and the need to obtain a part time water-sewer operator. Environmental Associates would provide additional consulting at \$20/hr.

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The policy of the Bulletin is open expression of ideas and opinions. The authors have sole responsibility for content. The Bulletin is open to discussion, disagreement and commentary through letters to the Editor, or interested persons may submit articles to be considered for publication.



This is the population of the Roosevelt Public School in 1937 or 1938 at what is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mueller. To the best of Nat Narod's recollection, the children were celebrating a special event. The festivities included a march to this special house.

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## Reaganomics hits home

By Elly Shapiro

Reagonomics and the aftermath of the cuts in services keeps appearing in print. Daily, during my perusal of the newspaper, cuts, more cuts, projected cuts, anticipated cuts and in general additional reduction in services for the poorer (minority; younger; older) public are dissected and analyzed.

Personally, Reaganomics entered my life this past summer. That was when the State Department of Health took an existing health care program for migrant farmworkers and slashed it ruthlessly out of its budget. This after MCOSS nursing services in Freehold had been promised renewal of that grant. Thus, 320 Hispanic and black laborers were left in varying states of restorative medical and dental care. We had planned and implemented a program according to advice from our mentor within that department. He had advised us to ask for more money, since it was surely in the budget. On that premise (promise) we expended \$10,000 of our agency money.

Four weeks after we began screening and treatment with these workers, the same mentor called my supervisor and whispered (yes, folks, he whispered) into the phone that our agency would receive no funding for the migrant health project.

Medical and dental appointments had to be cancelled. The driver of the van that took the migrants to and from their

various appointments was left jobless and without recourse. Since this was just his "summer" job to supplement his teacher's salary and pay his son's college tuition, he was denied unemployment compensation.

Freda Hepner has felt the "crunch" in two ways. First, as a student in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University, she finds that even though there has been a raise in tuition and an increase in enrollment, there have been no additional services offered. Indeed, there has been a freeze on hiring, so that there has been a cutback in staff due to attrition.

In Princeton, at Helikon, where Freda is coordinator, creative writing projects and other worthwhile programs for youngsters are being cut back.

Helikon is a multi-faceted program which brings interesting programs into schools which subscribe. One aspect is a student newspaper to which children may contribute and have the thrill of seeing their names in print. This newspaper is then distributed free in all the participating schools as well as in some retail outlets. Because of budgetary belt tightening, schools are now using some of the funds allocated for "gifted and talented" children in their budget.

Helikon is partially funded through tuition for some of their open workshops from the schools. Otherwise, it receives funding from the New Jersey State Council on

(Cont'd. on next page)



the Arts, Freda has already been notified of a reduction in the amount anticipated and that 1981 would most likely be the final year of the grant. Some money is also allocated for Helikon from the Princeton Youth Fund and some comes through patron subscriptions from local merchants. Patronage of this kind has decreased due to the poor economy. One former patron even went out of business.

When New Jersey Departments began to clean house recently due to budget restrictions imposed by Ronald Reagan, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and other human services agencies lost many positions. The people who were fired began "bumping" people within their own agency and took jobs from people... and so on down the line until the overflow of these "bumpees" end up working for other agencies and/or jobs which they know little about.

June Ord, a social worker at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, verified this. People are unprepared for the various jobs which they fill. Recently, every employee at TPS received his or her "pink slip." This gives them notice that they may be asked to leave within 45 days. June fears that since Thomas Kean was just elected Governor of the state and since he actively campaigned as an advocate of Reaganomics, this will wreak havoc with the institution. "There is a trend to try to get people out of the hospital, but then there are no 'systems' available for the patients when they get out," June says.

These same "bumps" have affected the Mill Hill Child and Family Development Center in Trenton, where Gladys Rips is employed as a social worker.

The center provides day care and social services to troubled families. This is a private agency which receives some funds from United Way, some through sliding scale fees of self referred clients called "Exceptionals." Mostly, the center is funded through state funds through DYFS. Because of this transitional period after the great shake-up, there is no one left to talk problems over with. Referrals from DYFS, which normally make up 65% of the case load, have fallen for the same reason. Since there are contractually allocated slots for these clients, they must be taken only from among DYFS referrals. These slots may not be filled by other clients, thus making it difficult for all concerned. "I feel that the life of this agency is in jeopardy and there is no one to talk to."

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## School Board supports team teaching in K-2

By Freda Hepner and  
David Brahinsky

The Roosevelt School Board, at its meeting on December 8, voted 6 to 3 to support the controversial team teaching program for grades kindergarten through second grade. Support was given although 75% of the parents of the children had objected, in various ways (including a signed petition) to the overcrowded conditions in the primary unit room in which the concept is being implemented, and in spite of the fact that two of the three teachers involved were quoted as believing that the program wasn't working and the children were losing out.

The parents were advised that they could implement a grievance procedure by formally selecting a spokesperson to represent them to the education committee and, if not satisfied, to the full board.

A motion was made to move one grade from the room to alleviate overcrowding. The board, after some discussion as to whether or not this would countermand the previous motion, voted against the motion 5 to 4.

It was announced that the problem with the Gratton Bus Company was resolved. The unsafe bus driver, who had angered and frightened parents and children on a trip to New York City, would not drive for Roosevelt again.

The board unanimously approved Ms. Hetrick's 1981-82 contract with a 6% increase to \$26,500, 20 days paid vacation, one week study time in  $\frac{1}{2}$  days, and \$250.00 graduate tuition for a degree in administration. Also approved was the business administrator's stipend of one dollar a year plus a dental and medical stipend; and a raise of 25 cents an hour for the three aides, Lynn Friedman, Edythe DeTursi and Sheila Jaeger, who had been the only employees who had not received raises this year.

The board passed the Family Life Education program, the first reading of a student grievance procedure and observation of tenured and non-tenured teachers.

It was announced that each room has new separately controlled thermostats and that ceiling repairs and insulation is progressing. Approved was an increase to \$800.00 to repair roof leaks and explored were changes in the windows for greater insulation (to cost a minimum of \$4,000.00).

A Ben Shahn signed original painting, "Colors" is missing. This will be reported to the police and the insurance company.

The principal's report included a report on the head lice situation. Nine

(Cont'd. on next page)

cases were reported with two repeats. There was an epidemic of head lice in New Jersey and the principal will instruct parents on how to be alert to further outbreaks after consulting with Board of Health officials.

Al Hepner agreed to accept a formal appointment to the education committee as George Loyer cannot be an active participant.

Finally, a motion to eliminate smoking during meetings failed (it was reported that the Supreme Court had found such restrictions unconstitutional).

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## Letter to the Bulletin

Not since the Pulitzer prize scandal at the Washington Post has a newspaper article grabbed my attention like the page one piece by reporter Rashkin in last month's Boro Bulletin. I'm not quite sure if the quotation marks around, "Experimental nature," in column two are supposed to quote me or merely coin a catchall phrase for Ms. Rashkin to help explain a complex situation. The context of the phrase is unclear to me as written.

One interpretation of the term "experiment" conjures up images of control groups and treatment groups. By any standard this interpretation is fraught with sensationalism. The connotation is that students are being manipulated for the purposes of science and risk is involved. Such a definition sends chills up my spine.

I reread the report I had written for the Board and couldn't find the phrase "experimental" in it anywhere, nor do I recall using it. The phrase must be then, a perception of the reporter. Ms. Rashkin has attended many long Board meetings, several Education meetings, and has interviewed me. I hope that for all this time expended she will share my perception that her article was a report of a meeting's discussion, not a thorough review of the topic of the program for grades K-2 at R.P.S.

Perhaps the phrase "experimental" was used by Ms. Rashkin to describe something new or changed at R.P.S. this year. I would have to

agree that there are many such experiments in the works this year. A reporter could report about our new foreign language and algebra programs for seventh and eighth graders which gives students the option of entering high school with ten course credits. Or, a reporter could come to watch our after-school intramural program for boys' and girls' basketball. Another visit would reveal a serious Dungeons and Dragons club which meets after school for many long hours. This year our library has had the good fortune to have begun a much needed overhaul. Parents have been supportive of this effort and have volunteered their time in the library. We also have parent volunteers working in three classrooms on a regular basis. This year we have six new faculty members who bring new ideas into our district. In addition to the regrouping of grades K-2, grades 3-5 have been grouped differently from last year's grades 3-5, and grades 6-8 have an entirely new schedule. The entire faculty and Board's education committee have been working on updating and reorganizing our curriculum. Our building is about to undergo some long-awaited renovations -- new wiring, insulation, plumbing, tile floors, and doors. Programs for Family Life Education and Gifted and Talented students are to be written this year. Students in grades six and seven are producing a school paper this year. We have also revised our student reporting and

(Cont'd. on next page)



record-keeping system to supplement our regular parent-teacher conferences.


I would consider these new events experimental because there is an element of the unknown. There are no guarantees, however well intended any of these new changes may be. My perception is that these changes, and the program for grades K-2 will improve the quality of education in our school. I hope that educators will always be open to such experiments.

The R.P.S. staff and the Board of Education will continue to work on all of

these new changes this year. Yes, there will be growing pains, but these pains must be dealt with in a positive, objective way.

Beverly Hetrick  
Administrative Principal

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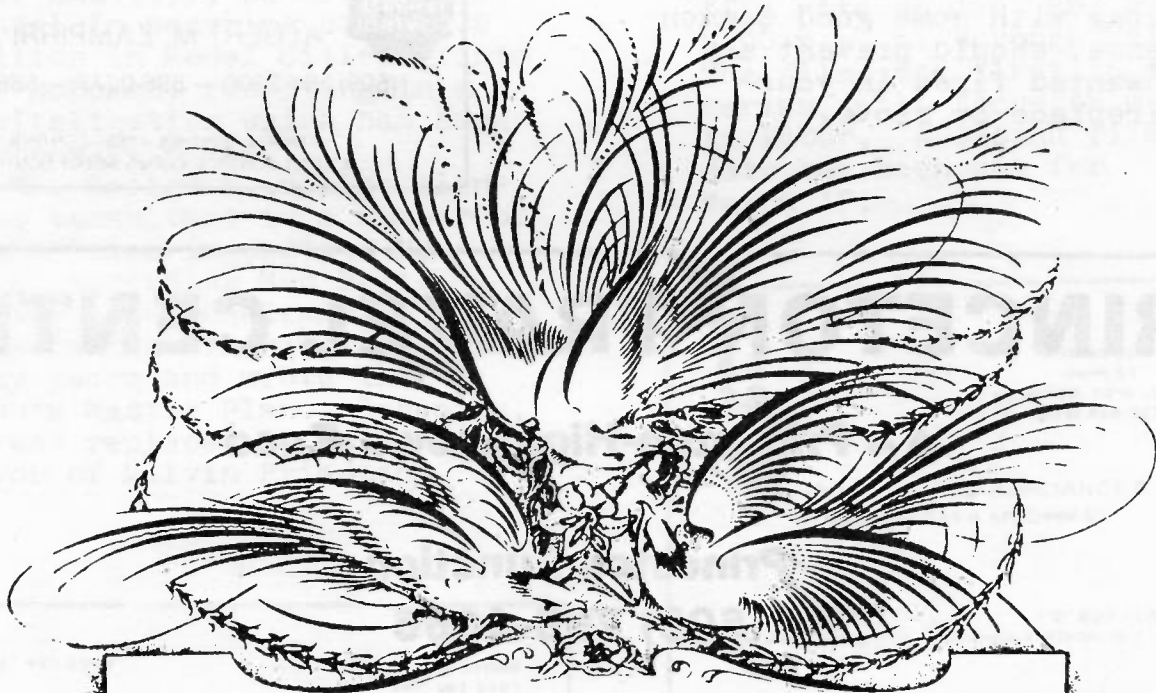


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## Check your chimneys

With the heating season here again, Fire Chief Jim Manzi would like to pass on a word of advice to all fireplace and wood stove owners:


- 1) Be sure there are no obstructions in the chimney;
- 2) Be sure the chimney is free of creosote buildup left from last year;
- 3) Chimneys and stoves should be cleaned and checked at least once a month;
- 4) Chimney spark arresters should be in place at all times.

Following the above steps, along with some good common sense, should prevent any unwanted fires in your fireplace or stove.

### FIRE COMPANY NEWS


At its December 3 meeting the Roosevelt Fire Department re-elected Jim Manzi chief and Dave Zaleski assistant chief. George Loyer was again elected president. Steve Yeger was elected vice president and Pat Archamba is the new secretary/treasurer. George Loyer will continue to be captain until another captain or captains is appointed.

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MINUTES AGO**The Beatles couldn't read music either**

By Arthur Shapiro

Our family recently went to see my daughter Mindy perform at a "Coffee House" at Hightstown High. I was amazed at both the quality and quantity of the musical talent roaming the halls of my alma mater. There were all sorts of groups -- some of whom even wrote their own music. They were all great.

During the years of my attendance at H.H.S. there were only one or two student dance bands that had any following. As you can see in the accompanying picture, I had the good fortune to be in one of them.

Our first band was called the "Melody-Tones" a name we all hated but had to live with. We actually picked "The Mello-Tones" but the printer from whom we ordered our business cards misspelled our name. We had to give out one thousand cards before we could change it. Our later name, the "Stardusters" was picked for a much better reason. It really belonged to another band of "older" guys led by Stefan Martin. When Stefan and his musicians were graduated from high school, our band bought the music stands from them at a good price. We had to change our name to the one already printed on the stands.

I made a lot of money playing in our band. Among the paying jobs we had were bar

mitzvahs in Lakewood, weddings in Trenton and high school dances as far away as Levittown, Pennsylvania. And, if I must say so myself, we had a pretty good sound, mostly because of Steve (Beefy) Marcus -- a natural musical genius. Steve lived up the big hill in the large white house which now serves as the headquarters for the wildlife preserve. He's the one next to me playing the clarinet. If you look closely you'll see that his is the only music stand without a light. That's because Steve could not read music! (By the way, Steve today is recognized as a fine jazz and rock musician. He recently cut a few records for a major recording company after playing for many years with such groups as those led by Herbie Mann and Buddy Rich. Yes... today he reads music.)

The picture was taken at Kenny Mondlin's bar mitzvah, a gala affair held in the Roosevelt School gym. The drummer is Carl Lowenthal, formerly of South Rochdale Avenue. The fellow standing is John Perrine of Cranbury -- our first "leader." Like Steve, John could not read music. In fact, he couldn't play an instrument or even keep time with the baton. What he could do was DRIVE. Since the rest of us were too young to have licenses, we had to pay someone to drive

(Cont'd. on P12 )

## Minutes Ago

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us to jobs and rehearsals. Particularly someone with a station wagon. John was with us only a short while -- until Dick, the trumpet player turned seventeen.

The piano player, Joe, was an excellent musician. A good piano player is always appreciated by the rest of the band because he gives them a chance to rest or do other things like dance with their dates. Sometimes during a slow dance, we would play the first sixteen bars, yell, "take it JOE," run out onto the dance floor and dance a few times around the floor with our girlfriends. Then we would run back to the bandstand to finish the number.

During my junior year of high school, my mother bought me a very special birthday

gift, a brand new Selma saxophone! The Selma, made in France, is to saxophones as Stradivarius is to violins and Rolls Royce to cars. It was an unbelievable gift for a kid my age. Musicians much more talented and experienced longed for such an instrument. And, I knew that it took a large bite out of our family budget. I fondled and shined that sax every chance I could. Steve liked my sax so much, he begged his parents for one just like it -- and got it!

One day in 1956, the Stardusters were booked to play a Saturday afternoon wedding at the Polish American Club in Yardville. Because we were double dating after the gig, Steve and I decided to ride together. We were running late when Steve picked me up. We put





my sax with his in the trunk of his Oldsmobile and took off for the wedding. To save time we took a back road, the Hightstown-Perrineville Road, which was then covered with dirt and had many hills and bumps. Steve was "gunning it" at about sixty-five miles an hour when we went over a bump in the road. We both heard a loud KLUNK. As I looked out the back window my heart stopped -- THE TRUNK WAS OPEN. After Steve stopped the car we both sat in the front seat praying out loud. Steve was praying, "God, please let it be Arthur's sax!" I was praying, "Please let it be Beefy's!" We soon realized what we were doing, and that we were still late for the wedding. We had to know! We each got out of the car and slowly walked toward the trunk. As we approached the back of the car, there it was, lying in the middle of the road -- Steve's jack!

### SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

By Helga Wisowaty

The main topics discussed at the December 2 meeting were the Convention of Senior Citizens in Washington and the New Jersey Federation of Senior Citizens. The Federation works for Seniors to push through legislation favorable to us. They are in need of financial aid at this time. Our Roosevelt club has made a donation to them. Anyone wanting to help can send donations. They benefit All Seniors.

Our annual holiday dinner will be held December 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Over the Bridge Inn. Members pay \$5.00 but out of town members and local seniors pay \$7.50. There is a varied menu and many choices. Call Fay Libove for reservations (448-2270) before or on December 10. She'll take payments also. Our next meeting will be a "fun" meeting with members bringing games, cards, etc. for an afternoon of socializing. Anyone who can bring a gift wrapped to be given as prizes should do so. It will add to the enjoyment of the day. Meetings are at 2:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. We look forward to all of our festivities and hope to see new faces at our next meeting.

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## Holiday time is family time

By Adeenah Yeger

With the holidays coming, a picture comes to mind of families being together. But the role of the family and its members has changed through the years -- from a very patriarchal one to a family that is almost equalitarian.

Traditionally, the family was the mainstay of life. It was largely self-sufficient, providing both medical care and economic security. The family was once the center for religion. In colonial times parents even provided academic instruction for their children. Each member of the family contributed his or her own share. This changed little for many years.

The typical family in our civilization today has undergone a transformation and along with it has gone a shift in functions. The trend toward a kind of equalitarian family is apparent. State and local governments have taken over many of the protective functions of the family, in the form of fire departments, police departments, welfare agencies and social security systems. The religious function has been left mainly to Sunday school. Education is considered the province of the schools. There are also many recreation groups to take the place of family gatherings -- scouts, 4-H, etc.

The trend toward an

equalitarian family includes a trend toward more equal status for women, equal rights of divorce, and the move away from subordination of women and children. Marriage is more of a partnership. Decisions and control are shared between husband and wife; children may also have a voice in some matters.

This change does not constitute a break-down of the family, just a metamorphosis to adapt to the modern world.

I hope, however, in this specialized and mechanized world, that we haven't abandoned all our traditions, and that we parents still find time to spend with our children. Their earliest experiences, and often most treasured memories, come from us. Especially with the holiday season here, let's remember our families.



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# *TIME FOR ACTION*



The popular call for nuclear disarmament heard mainly in Europe but gradually getting louder in the USA can take much of the credit for Pres. Reagan's recent proposals for nuclear arms reduction. At last the issue has been placed at the top of the agenda of world affairs. Truly a welcome event.

The response of the Soviet Union, though disappointing to some people, was not a surprise to others. There are good signs, however, of willingness to negotiate further. It is very clear that it will take much honest and persistent discussion to effect any real gains.

We who are demanding a freeze on all thermonuclear weapons do not intend to get involved in the detailed arguments for or against either side. We are certain that our best contribution will be to keep up a steadily growing pressure for a mutual stoppage of nuclear arms manufacture. We feel that recent events show that this is a realistic first step toward eventually banning all nuclear weaponry from our planet.

Our message to Presidents Reagan and Brezhnev is: "The world is waiting to applaud you for the courage to move decisively toward rescuing the human race from nuclear destruction."

We urge you to write to local newspapers and to your legislators, asking for their support. We need your support financially but, more than that, we solicit your time, energy and ideas for getting this issue squarely before the community and the nation.

ROOSEVELT COMMITTEE

FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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Culinary Delights**When friends stop by for holiday cheer**

By Barbara Halpern

When friends stop by for holiday cheer, have one of these tasty appetizers on hand to serve. As crowd pleasers, I am presenting a traditional holiday cheese ball and two Chinese appetizers.

Cheese Ball

yield: 2 balls

- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 2 oz. blue cheese (optional)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  stick butter
- 1 Tablespoon Sherry or Cognac
- 1 teaspoon dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic (crushed)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup ground walnuts

Combine all ingredients except the nuts into a medium bowl. Allow ingredients to soften 2-3 hours. Beat until smooth. Chill in the refrigerator for about one hour. Divide mixture into 2 parts and shape each one into a ball. Roll in ground nuts. Wrap in plastic wrap. Will keep fresh in refrigerator up to 2 weeks. Cheese balls can be frozen for later use.

Fried Won Tons

yields: 50 or more won tons

- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. ground pork
- 8 water chestnuts, chopped
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 2 Tablespoons chopped scallion
- 1 package Won Ton skins (sold in produce section of grocer)
- oil - for frying

Mix first five ingredients together thoroughly. Fill each won ton with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 teaspoon of ground pork mixture. Fold like a nurse's cap. Moisten edge with water and seal. Heat oil to 375°; deep fry a few at a time. Drain off excess oil on paper towels. Serve with following sauce.

Soy Sauce for Dipping

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup soy sauce, dilute with 2 Tbs. water
- 1 scallion, chopped
- 1 slice fresh ginger

Combine all ingredients together. Serve with fried won tons for dipping.

\* Fried won tons can be frozen. After frying, allow won tons to cool. Store them in a plastic bag and freeze until ready to use. Reheat won tons on a cookie tray in a moderate oven 350° for 10 minutes or longer.



Shrimp Toast

$\frac{1}{2}$  lb. frozen small shrimp  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon baking powder  
 1 egg white  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon fresh ginger - chopped finely  
 1 teaspoon Sherry  
 6 slices light toast - crust removed  
 Peanut oil for frying

Mince shrimp. Mix first seven ingredients together. (This can be made up to 2 days in advance - refrigerated) Spread shrimp mixture on toast. Fry in oil at 350 shrimp side down for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 minutes. Remove, drain well, and cut into bite size pieces. Serve with duck sauce.

Roosevelt Community and School CalendarDecember 1981

28 Monday, 8:00 p.m.

Planning Board meeting -  
Borough Hall

29 Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

First Aid meeting - Borough  
Hall

DAVID ARNOLD PERFORMS

David Arnold's recent performance with the Trenton Symphony drew a good crowd from Roosevelt and a strong review from the Trenton Times: "baritone David Arnold, who is rapidly rising to prominence in the world of opera, oratorio and symphonic music...revealed a baritone of unusual quality precisely pitched and focused, which he used with admirable musicianship. After hearing him one can understand the critical raves he has received for his performances with the San Francisco, Boston and New York Opera companies."

David was very pleased to be singing locally and was heartened by the warm greetings he received from fellow Rooseveltians after the concert.

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RALPH SELIGMAN APPOINTED TO STATE COMMITTEE

Roosevelt's Ralph Seligman has been appointed to New Jersey's prestigious Science Advisory Committee. He will serve with New Jersey's leading planners and authorities on land use to advise the Governor and Legislature on policy for effective use of the State's remaining land.

A member of the Department of Urban Affairs at Hunter College in New York, Mr. Seligman is also the planning consultant to the City of Hoboken. He has been widely recognized as the architect of Hoboken's turnaround from a decaying urban center. Between 1967 and 1977, he was instrumental in securing over \$100 million in Model Cities grants for Hoboken, resulting in a revitalization which has been nationally noted.

Mr. Seligman is also planning consultant to a number of communities in upstate New York, including New Paltz. He served as Chairman of Roosevelt's Planning Board for many years and wrote the town's Master Plan. Recently, he was replaced as chairman in favor of Melvin Friedman.

N.O.W. NEWS

Your Rights as a Working Woman, is a new publication by the N.J. National Organization for Women.

This booklet explains your rights on all aspects of paid employment covered by federal or state law and if applicable, under collective bargaining.

If you want to know about equal pay for work of equal value, your benefits during pregnancy, or other questions, get a copy for \$3.50 by calling Carol Watchler 443-6540.

NOW CHAPTER TO SHOW FILM

The Eleanor Roosevelt chapter of NOW will have a film nite on Jan. 20, at 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. The film, the first in a series, will focus on women in labor. A second film date has been set for March 17.

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P.T.A. NEWS

By Alice Lifland

The success of the P.T.A. Art Fair was due to the help of many people in our community. Special thanks to Marsan French Maid Catering, Sergeantsville, N.J., Roosevelt Deli, Johanna Farms, Flemington, N.J., and Moore's Building Supplies.

Through the suggestion of our president, Edythe DiTursi, the P.T.A. has initiated a new project. Thanksgiving cookie treats were given to each child to commemorate the holiday.

There has been a change in officers in the P.T.A. They are: Edythe DiTursi - President, Sheila Jaeger - Vice President, Ellen Francis - Treasurer, Judy Nahmias - Corresponding Secretary. The committee chairpersons are: Judith Goetzmann - Membership, Chris Somma - Hospitality. We still need new members with ideas. Please contact Judith Goetzmann if you are interested and join us at meetings. We need your input.

ROOSEVELT TEACHER TO ATTEND WORKSHOP

Lila Mayberg of Roosevelt School has been selected as a participant in the Winter and beyond Workshop to be convened at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Dingmans Ferry, Pa. The workshop is a cooperative effort by the American Nature Study Society (ANSS) and PEEC. It will demonstrate techniques for teaching others about cold-weather environments, according to John Padalino, PEEC Director and ANSS President.

Leading naturalists will present sessions, including the following: Otto Heck (Trenton State College) -- Owls Through the Seasons, Helen Ross Russell (ANSS) -- Winter Search Party; Doris Parkman (Slippery Rock State College) -- Mathematics and Orienteering; Karen Nolan (ANSS) -- Science Writing.

Approximately 150 educators from the Northeast will attend the Winter and Beyond Workshop.

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## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

### The New Jersey Minimum Basic Skills Test

Just by mentioning the word, test, one can evoke a wide range of reactions. But in schools testing is a real part of life. School districts are required by law to present annually to the public, the results of their testing and planning programs and the implications for program improvements. At a special meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education on November 24, 1981, our report was presented to the public. The first part of the report, which was compiled by Mrs. Elizabeth Gagliardi, our school's testing coordinator, presented the results of the New Jersey Minimum Basic Skills Test and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for the 1980-81 school year. The second part of the report, which I compiled, reported our district's progress towards implementing the goals adopted in 1978 by the State of New Jersey and our Board of Education.

Mrs. Gagliardi's report first clarified the purposes of each of the two tests. The New Jersey Minimum Basic Skills Test tells us how many of our students in grades three and six have mastered certain minimum skills in reading and math. This test identifies students who cannot perform minimum expected skills and entitles these students to state mandated help in the Basic Skills Program. (The

Basic Skills Program is a new name for programs previously known as Compensatory Education and Title I.) The MBS Test also gives each school a picture of where the overall strengths and weaknesses are in their reading and math programs. Teachers must identify these weaknesses in program, suggest and implement corrective measures, and submit these reports to the state. The Iowa Test is an achievement test and gives a picture of a student's achievement regardless of grade level. The Iowa Test also lends itself to measuring a student's growth in language arts and math from year to year. Teachers can use the Iowa Test for monitoring individual student growth and program strengths. Our district also uses the Iowa Test as another way of identifying students in grades 1-8 in need of the Basic Skills Program.

The MBS and Iowa Tests were given in March and May, respectively, of 1981. Test scores were sent home to parents during the summer and were also used by teachers as one criterion in determining student programs for this year. Mrs. Gagliardi telephoned each parent whose child was identified by either the MBS or Iowa Test as being eligible for the Basic Skills Program. Each of these students was retested this

(Cont'd. on P.22)

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

(Cont'd. from previous page)

fall. It is important to note here that tests do not always reflect a child's true competence in reading and math. Some children don't like to take tests or do not feel well the particular day of a test. We have to use these tests as a means of identifying possible candidates, but must also exercise professional and parental judgments in determining actual student needs. In the fall staff members had a comprehensive review of the test scores and identified areas of need for individual student improvement as well as overall program improvements. Any student who scored below the 48th percentile in reading or math is currently receiving extra help in the Basic Skills Program.

There is not space here to go into detail for each sub-test for each grade. The reports are available at the school to be circulated for review. Parents can check their child's scores individually or as compared (anonymously) to the other students. It is difficult to make generalized statements about weaknesses and strengths in our program, however, areas we need to improve are the reading comprehension skills in inference and generalization. In math, word problems were more difficult for many of our students. We need to improve our students' knowledge of vocabulary at all

grade levels. One observation that could be made about our program last year comes from comparing our scores from previous years. Last year there was an overall significant increase in scores in reading. After reflecting on this it should be noted that last year a schoolwide (grades 2-8) program for grouping students according to their ability level, regardless of their grades level, for reading instruction was implemented. Teachers used a coordinated program for teaching reading. The test results last year were encouraging and the implication was that this program did improve our students' performance as measured by these tests.

The second part of the report discussed our district's planning and progress towards implementing the educational goals our board adopted in 1978. To date only one out thirteen has been implemented. These goals, originally adopted by the state, were modified by our district. They cover the content areas in which we would like our students to learn. Our first goal for communications and computation has been developed into a current program, but we have a long way to go yet to develop the others. This year we have established priorities to develop social studies, science, career and vocational awareness, fine arts and health, recreation and Family Life Education

(Cont'd. on next page)

programs. The development of these programs is a difficult and time consuming task. The Education Committee of our Board of Education is monitoring the development of these programs and the staff is working on them during inservice time. Our progress is also monitored by the State Department of Education. We must develop our long-range plans. Districts are held accountable for their efforts to direct the necessary financial and program priorities toward their stated goals and plans. The monitoring from the state is designed to help us track our progress and to provide technical assistance to the district in need of help.

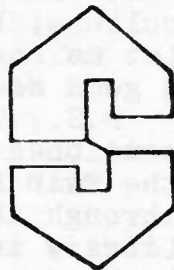
I encourage anyone in town to come in and discuss these reports further. Since the report is lengthy we made a

limited number of copies to be shared and circulated. Send me a note or call. I'll be sure that you get to review a copy.

GLORIA ADLERMAN

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Notes and Passages**Taking a mystery to bed with you**

By Freda Hepner

Nicholas Freeling, a writer of Dutch mystery novels, is a wonderful bed companion on a cold winter night. His intrigue does not center around one roguish experience nor does it climax with a frantic chase across hazardous terrain. He would rather have the reader participate in the mundane life of a policeman.

Freeling is an uncommonly talented writer who seduces you into the life of a middle class family in Amsterdam. You taste their foods and drinks, read their books, feel their damp colds and parenthetically unmask their criminals.

Like Georges Simenon, the master of what is called the psychological thriller, Freeling is able to show you what makes someone commit murder. These people are for the most part not paid assassins, nor are they casual marauders. They are people like you and me. They are in crisis. They lash out because they can no longer cope with their lives in conventional ways. They are usually apprehended by our insightful policemen because they are ordinary people who cannot carry the burden of having behaved extra-ordinarily.

Simenon, whose famous detective Inspector Maigret lives in Paris, has not limited himself to books about crimes. His stories about people in France, Africa, or wherever, are always about what makes people behave as

they do. His books are short but, as with Freeling, he makes you feel part of the internal and external environment of his characters.

In fact, reading well written mystery stories is a wonderfully inexpensive way to travel to new places. Ngaio Marsh and Sara Woods are probably the most prominent writers of contemporary British mysteries. Like Freeling and Simenon and some recently translated Swedish writers, they make us feel part of a neighborhood, a profession, a family, each in his or her respective countries. We get to know their shops and their theaters. their post offices and their parks. In short, we learn their values and their customs. After all, what is more important to know about a new place?

No doubt, there are American mystery writers who write as well about our culture, but I like to travel. Let me know if you have found a good bed-book lately.

P.S. The authors I've mentioned are available at the Twin Rivers Library and through the Monmouth County Library in Freehold. Their books can be requested from the Bookmobile librarian.



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## The Crucible

By Andrea Lakin

The strained emotional atmosphere of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 was recreated by the Hightstown High School drama club in The Crucible November 19-21. The excellent staging was surpassed only by the brilliance of a fine cast. The stars shone. Tessie List commanded everyone's attention as the vindictive Abigail Williams, while Mindy Shapiro gained the audience's empathy in her moving performance of the pious Elizabeth Proctor.



The complex themes and motives of the Salem witch trials are difficult to portray. In The Crucible, Abigail Williams (Tessie) and other young girls of Salem brought terror and tragedy to the small town by claiming to be possessed by Satan. They accuse area men and women of compacting with the devil. Only an admission of guilt to the charge of devil worshipping would save a person from hanging.

The play, written by Arthur Miller, is an allegory of the McCarthy era of the 1950's.

Mindy, daughter of Arthur and Elly Shapiro, is a newcomer to the Hightstown stage. She recently performed in the Coffeehouse, a transformed HHS cafeteria where "mellow music" and beverages are served. Tessie, a sophomore with theatrical background, was involved in Madeline and Monsters and Marigolds with the Children's Theatre workshop, which was under the direction of her mother, Margaret Schlinski. The characters portrayed by these two young women, joined by a highly talented cast, contributed to making The Crucible the success that it was.

## groups

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ELKS CLUB HOCT SHOOT

The annual Elks Club Hoct Shoot competition was held Saturday, Dec. 5, 1981, at Hightstown High School. The representatives from the Roosevelt School competed against contestants from other schools in the East Windsor area. Our representatives competed in tryouts in our school before going to the High School.

12-13 yr.: Lori Frank, Donna Ernstein, Marc Friedman and Shannon Orlando.

10-11 yr.: Joey Block, Danny Jaeger, Amy Block and Doris Stinson.

8-9 yr.: Michael Bowker, Thea Goetzmann, Dawn Somma and Robert Morris.

We are pleased to announce that Marc Friedman was high scorer for his age group at the High School meet and will represent East Windsor at the next level of competition Dec. 19, in Burlington, N.J. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs. Deborah Smith, our physical education teacher, for organizing the tryouts at R.P.S., and another thank you to Bob and Anne Rector for their information and support.

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An address on the Geneva Arms Talks: Understanding Both Sides will be delivered by Tom Richards, Professor of Political Science at Brookdale Community College, on Friday, January 22, 1982, at 8 p.m. under the auspices of the Roosevelt Committee for Nuclear Disarmament.

The public is invited. Please consult posters on the storefront near the post office for the location of the meeting.



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