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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



BULLETIN

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Vol. IV, No. 5

Roosevelt, New Jersey

February 1981

Loftus and Adlerman agency lose appointments;

Mayor attacks council in Planning Board tiff

By Carol Watchler and
Ann Baker

In the Dec. 15 meeting, the Roosevelt Borough Council received a proposal from Schoor, DePalma and Gillen, borough engineering consultants, to revise specifications in the plans for the water treatment plant for an additional amount of \$6000. This revision is required by the council's decision to have phase one and phase two bid both separately and together. After discussion whether the \$45,000 allocated to Schoor Engineers for work on the treatment plant had been completely expended, the measure passed with support from council members Counterman, Datz, Esakoff, and Terry with abstentions from council members Magnes and Wiener.

The council moved to confirm the actions taken regarding a break in the sewer main between Tamara

Drive and the sewer treatment plant which occurred in the week before Thanksgiving. This emergency resulted from the fall of a tree whose roots had become entangled in the sewer pipe, a problem which exists elsewhere in the sewer system also. Repairs by Gary Galliker necessitated the removal of several trees on the lot owned by Larry and Donna White to give access in the area for a back hoe. The work was completed on Dec. 7. The council authorized \$2500 each to Galliker for his work and to Oswald Sewer Service for blockage removal in the sewer line.

Mayor Leon Barth, who was on hand for parts of the actual clean-up work, fielded queries from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection who apparently became aware of the unsavory situation via hunters

(Cont'd. on P.18)

ROOSEVELT FIRST AID SQUAD
BLOOD DRIVE
February 12, 6:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Boro Hall

New police service

Police service for the borough now will be provided solely by the Hightstown barracks of the New Jersey State Police. Call 448-0073.

ALERT FROM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

We have been alerted by the Monmouth County Health Department to the importance of watching young children for symptoms of Reye's syndrome, a possible complication of viral infections. It may appear after flu, measles, chicken pox, etc. and its cause and prevention are unknown. It is not contagious but it can be extremely serious.

Watch for vomiting, extreme tiredness, pupil dilation, headaches, restlessness, convulsions after a viral infection. Contact a physician or hospital emergency room at once. Quick action is imperative in order to give the patient the greatest opportunity for recovery.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**Editorial Board:**

David Brahinsky

Jim Dulicai

Hortense Sochowitzky

Pat Antosky...circulation

Ann Baker...Council news

Peter Berlinrut...Issues & Debate

Bob Clark...Planning Board, features

Dave Cooper...art, ad layout

Lynn Friedman...business/ad manager

Freda Hepner...culture news, features

David Herrstrom...features

Beth Johnson...food column

Norma Kushner...treasurer, ad sales

Andrea Lakin...layout, headlines, art

Terry Lepore...headlines

Arthur Shapiro...features,

Minutes Ago

Elly Shapiro...social/calendar news, P.T.A., features

Carol Watchler...borough news

Helga Wisowaty...senior news

Adeenah Yeger...features, typing

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Time for dog licenses

Borough residents are reminded that dog licenses should have been renewed by Jan. 31. Contact Liz Johnson at the borough hall. The cost is \$4.

Friedman ousts Seligman as Planning chairman

By Bob Clark

At its Jan. 26 reorganization meeting the Planning Board elected Mel Friedman to replace Ralph Seligman as Chairman. The abrupt change appeared to have grown out of the replacement of Virginia Edwards--a Seligman supporter--by Lynn Frank as a Board member (see Council article).

Board member Peter Berlinrut nominated Seligman, who had served as Chairman for several years, but no one seconded the nomination. With Edwards gone and Board member Aaron Datz on vacation, Seligman lacked the four votes, including his own, necessary for reelection by the seven-member Board. Friedman, who supervises a large veterans facility for the State and has been on the Planning Board for

two years, was then elected with yes votes from Berlinrut, Frank, Mayor Leon Barth and Roy Terry. Seligman abstained.

Seligman, a professional planner, had guided the Board through the long, arduous process of updating the Borough's master plan and zoning ordinance to comply with the State's new Land Use Law. In November 1979 Barth had defeated Seligman in a hard-fought mayoral race.

Seligman's supporters have contended that Barth, Friedman and their followers seek risky growth that would change Roosevelt's placid character. The other side has countered that Seligman and his supporters have closed their minds to growth possibilities that offer financial stability to a town beleaguered by rising school costs and aging water and sewer facilities. Each side denies taking the extreme position attributed to it by the other.

In 1980 the factionalism accelerated during discussions concerning a proposal by builder William Philpot to develop a community for people over 50 along Route 571 north of the service station. Barth, Friedman, Terry and Berlinrut were interested in encouraging Philpot to either develop a sound proposal or prove himself unworthy of the task. Edwards made no attempt to hide her revulsion toward the idea.

Seligman ridiculed Philpot's sketchy plans, while Datz remained aloof and skeptical. In the end Philpot did not heed the Board's request that he provide more details and received no vote of approval for the concept. Philpot has not

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINEES NEEDED

This year there will be six Board of Education vacancies to be filled in the election on April 7. The usual three 3-year term positions will be open, and in addition there are three unexpired terms to be filled: two for 1 year and one for 2 years. These will fill out the terms of three members who resigned: Cynthia Horowitz, Sandra Orlando and David Cooper.

Nominating petitions are available at the school. They must be returned by 4 p.m. February 26.

To be eligible for board membership one must be over 18, have lived in Roosevelt two years, and be able to read and write.

(Cont'd. on next page)

Planning

(Cont'd. from previous page)

returned with any new ideas or details in several months.

During the public portion of the sparsely attended meeting, William Margolis, Louis Esakoff and Esther Pogrebin upbraided the Board for not reelecting Seligman and for replacing Board Attorney Malachi Kenney of Little Silver with John Bennett of Freehold. Seligman had originally proposed Kenney for the attorney position. Seligman voted against the change in attorneys, and Berlinrut abstained. Terry was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

Louise Rosskam expressed concern that too much change would cause Roosevelt to go "down the drain." Barth asserted that the reorganized Planning Board should be "given a chance to make its mark." His contention that in the final analysis the community would decide all important issues was ridiculed by Margolis, Esakoff and Pogrebin, however.

Finally, Berlinrut bridled at the charges of "packing," "vendetta," "conspiracy" and "fence-straddling." Berlinrut noted that he was satisfied with Seligman's performance as Board Chairman and had nominated him for another term; but Berlinrut said that he "totally rejects" inflammatory "rhetoric" where it concerns "honest" policy differences.

In other action, the Board unanimously passed a resolution at its Dec. 29 meeting recommending that the council approve amendment of the master plan to allow 2½-acre lots in the wooded area bordered by North Valley Road, Oscar Drive,

Cemetery Road and the Cemetery. Seligman explained that the amendment would offer greater variety of lot sizes and preserve the land's wooded terrain. He said that the change was not exclusionary since the borough offers a large proportion of moderate housing. Seligman also noted that the tract is adjacent to the area already designated for future residential development in the current master plan.



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Final registration for Millstone-Roosevelt Little League baseball and softball will take place on Friday, Feb. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Millstone Township First Aid building.

Revitalized NOW group seeks new members

The National Organization for Women's Roosevelt Chapter has been reorganized after several years' inactivity. The Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter includes residents of Roosevelt, Hightstown, East Windsor, Imlaystown and the surrounding area.

The group's foremost concern is to continue the gains women and men have made in achieving equality in all areas. Concerned people are invited to join the local group.

Officers elected at the December meeting are Carol Watchler, coordinator; Freda Hepner, treasurer, and Evelyn Datz, delegate to the State Board of NOW.

Members have recently co-sponsored an evening with

Barbara McConnell, state assemblywoman and candidate for governor, at the Princeton Jewish Center. They also participated in a day of lobbying at the state legislature for continuation of abortion rights in the face of a proposed constitutional amendment against abortion. Letters on this subject from Rooseveltians Evelyn Datz and Adeline Weiner have appeared in recent issues of the Trenton Times.

The next meeting of the chapter will be Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. Further information about the chapter and its activities can be obtained from Carol Watchler, 443-6540, or Freda Hepner, 448-4344.

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Evenings by Appointment

"Woodsman, spare that tree..." or face penalties

By Peter Berlinrut
Park Commission

"Woodsman, spare that tree,
Touch not a single bough,
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now."

Because there has been a heavy increase in woodburning stoves and fireplaces in the past two years, the demand for wood is threatening trees.

This could become a sore problem in Roosevelt, as it already is in many towns. The penalties are serious: soil erosion, impaired drainage, lessened shade, and diminished shelter and food for birds and other wildlife. And by no means least, an uglier landscape and setting for houses.

To prevent this, the council is considering an ordinance to control the removal of trees on dwelling plots and commons land in town. It is carefully studying tree-removal ordinances of the League of Municipalities to determine which provisions would best fill Roosevelt's needs.

The general idea is for residents to obtain permission from the Building Inspector or other designated official to fell any live tree other than small ones. Dead trees or those struck by lightning wouldn't be covered.

The aim isn't to restrain any homeowner's right to take down a tree on his property when he can show good reason for doing so. Rather, the idea is to save trees from becoming fuel for an insatiable fireplace or stove, and thereby harming the environment.

Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes, who is studying the problem, urges all residents to practice voluntary restraint while the

ordinance is being considered. Meanwhile, the Park Commission is granting permission to remove dead trees from commons land. Trees have to be down already with no doubt that they're dead. This is sometimes difficult to tell in winter.

Residents are asked to spread the word in behalf of Roosevelt's trees.

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Letter to the Bulletin**Bernarda Shahn writes of sculpture and privies**

To the Bulletin

As an aboriginal Rooseveltian I have several comments to make concerning a recent Bulletin piece (on public sculpture) that deals with that early era and with a few of our familiar landmarks.

The sculpture of a garment worker, solidly set in the lobby of the school, is not anonymous: It is the work of Lenore Thomas, a sculptress well-enough known not to be called "anonymous." The figure is also not of a man but of a woman--not a very serious mistake since the figure is quite generalized in any case.

Another piece of sculpture that was not mentioned in the

article is that of the two sculptured aluminum doors of the school. That is the work of a sculptor named Otto Wester.

There was never the remotest possibility that the Roosevelt houses might have been built without inside bathrooms. The town was designed by a sophisticated Bauhaus architect named Alfred Kastner. In those early days, the town of Roosevelt, then known as Jersey Homesteads, was often cited as a distinguished example of modern architecture. It was listed in one such book as the only community of modern design on the East Coast. Since I was familiar with the

(Cont'd. on next page)

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Shahn (Cont'd. from P.7)

houses while they were still models in balsa wood, I can assure you that the bathrooms were clearly included. In fact, as I recall, there was some discussion about the possible installation of bathrooms cast all in one piece in monel metal--I think, a Buckminster Fuller idea.

While Jersey Homesteads was of great interest to Mrs. Roosevelt, it was not her pet project. The community to which she devoted her especial interest was Arthurdale, W. Va. situated in the heart of the coal country. This town was, indeed, often referred to as "Mrs. Roosevelt's Baby." Here, there would have been some likelihood of a plan for out-of-door toilets--privies--and I am sure that if this generous lady knew of such an intention, she would have vetoed it. Neither Mrs. Roosevelt nor the architect Alfred Kastner would have accepted the point of view that "for the needy you do less." The guiding principle behind all the so-called Resettlement Projects was to provide a basis for a life of fulfillment and growth. Roosevelt has done pretty well in this respect.

As to the suggestion that there be additional public sculpture around the town, I think that is a terrific idea. The residents of Roosevelt can, if they want to, make Roosevelt into a very beautiful community --it's a matter of personal and community pride. And, in view of the fact that the government once did something very great for us, that might be one way of expressing our appreciation.

--Bernarda Shahn

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What's hiss is hers, if basement is a crawl space

By Elly Shapiro

To say I was charmed by the "Snake Lady" of Roosevelt would be understating the fact. My son, Erik, and I recently spent a very warm hour at the Brown Street home of Dian and Al Visintini--the warmest I've been all winter, in fact, since their reptile room is kept at 80 to 82 degrees during the day and five to seven degrees lower at night. This assures Dian's 21 assorted snakes and three lizards the tropic-like environment they need to prevent the respiratory infections to which they are susceptible. It also provides the perfect setting for lush foliage plants while giving the impression of a place far removed from Roosevelt.

The center of this large spotless room is dominated by an enormous wood and glass cage. It houses the largest snakes in Dian's collection, including an 11-foot Burmese Python that was a fourth anniversary present from her husband. In the five years she has had the python it has grown at least eight feet

Erik and I were introduced to snakes ranging in length from one foot to 11 feet, as well as to three lizards. One of them made strange warning noises and opened its large mouth to scare me off, but that Tokay Geko should have known better! It had never entered my mind to pet it. It is kept in a tightly sealed terrarium because it moves with lightning speed and can walk on ceilings and smooth walls. "We'd never catch it if it got out," Dian said. A pair of Leopard Geko lizards from West Asia complete this strange trio.

Ever since her childhood in Robbinsville, Dian has had a fascination with these creatures. She was always catching frogs, snakes and turtles, but wasn't allowed to keep any of the snakes as pets. Then, at age 18, she was allowed her first snake and she promptly chose a boa constrictor. This she had to keep in a padlocked cage in the basement of her family's home.

Dian now acquires her snakes in the wild or from fellow members of the New York and Philadelphia Herpetological Societies. Sometimes she'll buy one in a pet shop but prefers to get snakes that are bred in captivity rather than those taken from their natural habitat.

Snakes have become the rage as pets, according to Dian. Boa constrictors can no longer be imported from South America. This has created a black market in snakes and has driven up the price. It will also mean the extinction of some species since importers do not seem to care how many snakes they bring in. The snake which Dian would most like to own is the Emerald Tree Boa, which is native to South America. But she says its \$500 price tag is out of her market, though she's getting into the business by breeding other snakes to sell to pet shops.

Dian acquired her Reticulated Python from a pet shop because it had a less than amiable relationship with the owner. Its price tag of \$75 was a deterrent to Dian, who asked to handle the snake. "That's a mean snake, lady," was his answer. Dian was insistent.

(Cont'd. on next page)

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To the amazement of the owner, this "mean" snake--which had recently got loose, bitten the man and eaten two of the guinea pigs, slithered calmly over Dian, as if they had been friends for life. The store owner, seeing a perfect opportunity to part company with his foe, cut the price to \$25 and Dian had a new boarder.

The Visintinis met at work, he the chef, she a waitress. His reaction to her hobby? "Tolerance" is the word Dian used to describe Al's reaction to her pets. Yet, when they began to talk of marriage, he kindly let her keep her creatures in the spare room of the house he built in 1963.

Although all are nonpoisonous, some of the snakes would bite, though usually only as a defense, Dian said. Some just make noise to scare off an enemy. The Baby Bull Snake she picked up hissed loudly and vibrated its tail noisily to warn me away. Coward that I am, I took its gentle hint.

Some are so nervous in captivity that they won't eat. Her Ball Python refused food for three months and only now, after almost two years, is beginning to accept dead food. Before, it ate only live food that it was allowed to capture. For this purpose, Dian raises rats and mice in the basement of her home. With the conversion of the Ball Python, all of her reptiles now will accept dead food, and they are occasionally treated to the carcass of a rabbit that's been hit on the road.

Dian keeps a file card on each of her snakes and lists such information as when the snake ate, what it ate, when it last shed, and in the case of

the female snakes, when its mating time is.

All the while we were speaking, Erik was enjoying the company of a four-foot-long Ball Python from West Africa. It was warm, smooth, gentle and dry... the antithesis of everything I had thought about snakes. It slithered calmly all around Erik's body and hooked its tail comfortably in his belt loop. I knew pretty soon I'd have to come up with a pretty good reason why Erik couldn't have a snake as a pet. Actually, with such an expert in town, and one who will gladly share her expertise, I really can't think of one reason to say "No." Congratulations, I'm about to become a stepmother. Step---for a snake?

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Between parent and toddler: a gate, and patience

By Adeenah Yeger

Having a toddler in the house can be very trying for the parents, but it isn't so easy for the child either. The one- to three-year-old is going through a period of both self- and environment-awareness. He begins to form a picture of himself in his environment, separate yet a part of it.

He is developing a curiosity about everything. The child wants to touch everything, take things apart and see how they work. The toddler also wants to imitate his parents, do whatever they do. He needs to learn his limits, both his own physical limits and those set by the parents. This is not always easy for the child to accept. He becomes frustrated easily when he can't do something. The parents can play an important role in teaching the child how to release his energy in an acceptable manner.

In addition to patience, parents also need an incredible amount of creativity and ingenuity at this time. Household chores often need to be put aside for a while because of a "helpful" toddler under foot. Finding simple chores for the child to do is often a lifesaver for the parent. It also gives the child a feeling of worth that he can do something. Toy vacuum cleaners and brooms let the child imitate the parent while letting the parent do the chores.

Since many Roosevelt houses are on one level, stairs may not present a problem. But for those with two-story or higher houses, gates are a must. They serve the dual purpose of keeping the child in one room or area while keeping him out of another. They also enable the child to

see what the parent is doing in another room. I find gates also useful when there are pets around. A gate across the doorway keeps the dog out of the baby's room. This way I can keep her door open and hear her when she calls.

Bathtime is a good time for cleaning the bathroom. I've found, I have a seat that holds to the bottom of the tub by suction. I strap the baby in, and she can play safely without my worrying about her slipping. While she plays with her tub toys, I clean the rest of the bathroom. By the time I'm finished, she's ready to be washed and I've accomplished two things at once.

A little patience and understanding of the child's needs in relation to the parents' can make things easier for everyone.

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Roosevelt Community & School Calendar

February 1981

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| 2 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Deborah meeting - Borough Hall |
| 4 | Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. | Sr. Citizens meeting - Borough Hall |
| | 7:10-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |
| 5 | Thursday, 8:00 p.m. | Pioneer Women meeting - Borough Hall |
| 9 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Council Agenda meeting - Borough Hall |
| 10 | Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. | Fire Company meeting - Borough Hall |
| 11 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Council meeting - Borough Hall |
| 12 | Thursday, 6:30 p.m. | Blood drive - Borough Hall |
| 13 | Friday - 16 Monday | R.P.S. & H.H.S. - school closed
Presidents' Birthdays |
| 17 | Tuesday, 3:00-10:00 p.m. | Food Co-op pickup |
| 18 | Wednesday, 7:10-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |
| 23 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Planning Board |
| 24 | Tuesday | Early closing - R.P.S. & H.H.S. |
| | 8:00 p.m. | First Aid meeting |

March 1981

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|----|----------------------|--|
| 2 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Deborah meeting - Borough Hall |
| 4 | Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. | Sr. Citizens meeting - Borough Hall |
| | 7:10-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |
| 9 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Council Agenda meeting -
Borough Hall |
| 10 | Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. | School Board meeting - R.P.S. |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Fire Company meeting |
| 11 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Council meeting - Borough Hall |

Food**Recipes, and an invitation, from the Food Co-op**

By Beth Johnson

This month the Bulletin's recipes came from members of the Roosevelt Food Co-op. Ingredients with an asterisk * may be obtained by joining this money-saving organization. If you are interested in obtaining more information about available products contact Ann Baker, 2 Elm Court, 443-6540. My thanks to Nina Burghardt, Barbara Halpern, and Sara Prestopino for their delicious recipes.

Cheese Polenta

* $\frac{1}{2}$ c. powdered milk	*2 Tbs. oil
* $\frac{1}{2}$ c. corn meal	* $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. grated cheddar cheese
2 Tbs. brewers yeast	* $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sunflower seeds
$1\frac{1}{4}$ c. scalded milk	

Mix cornmeal, powdered milk, and yeast. Slowly add hot milk and cook over low heat until thick. Add cheese and oil. Spread thinly in a small baking pan. Sprinkle seeds on top. Bake 350° until crisp and brown on top.

Swiss String Beans

4 c. string beans, chopped into 3/4" pieces	*1 heaping tsp. honey
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. minced onions	*2 c. grated Swiss cheese
*2 Tbs. whole wheat flour	*1 c. toasted sesame seeds
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	butter
1 c. plain yogurt	

Steam beans 3 min. and drain. Combine beans, onions, flour, and salt. Stir well until coated with flour. Add yogurt and honey. Put in deep, oiled 2 quart casserole. Cover mixture with grated Swiss then top with sesame seeds. Dot with butter. Bake at 325° for 30 min.

Serves 4 to 6

Spice 1 Nuts

*2 c. nuts	1 tsp. cinnamon
*1 egg white, slightly beaten	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. nutmeg
$\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. allspice

Roll nuts in egg white. Mix remaining ingredients and roll nuts in mixture. Oil a cookie sheet, line with waxed paper that has been oiled. Roast 10 min. at 325° then turn nuts and roast 5 min. more.

Grandma Dawber's Honey Candy

*1 lb. walnuts, broken	2 Tbs. sugar
*1 lb. honey	matzo meal

Bring honey to a boil. Add nuts. Cook slowly, stirring, for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour; add sugar and continue cooking and stirring until nuts soak up honey (another 15 min.). Stir in 2 Tbs. matzo meal. Let cool until just cool enough to handle. Wet a board with cold water; flatten mixture on board until $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and allow to cool completely. Cut into 1" diamond shapes and lay in a tray sprinkled with matzo meal.

(Cont'd. on next page)


Recipes (Cont'd. from P.13)

Prestopino Lentil Soup

*1 c. dry lentils	2 carrots (sliced)
6 c. water	2 tsp. oregano
2 large cloves garlic (minced)	*2Tbs. olive oil
2 med. onions (cut up)	salt to taste
2 stalks celery (cut up)	

Optional: 1 c. cooked macaroni, added at the end. Bouillon, if desired.

Combine all ingredients. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ hour soaking time, then simmer until lentils are tender. Serve with a spoonful of sour cream or *yogurt. May be sprinkled with grated cheese* (Sardo, Romano, Parmesan).



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Roosevelt Public School students will soon be studying careers. Residents or anyone else interested in telling about their careers with inquisitive students will be welcome. Please contact Ellen Francis at 448-1594.

SADOVSKYS BECOME GRANDPARENTS

Ruth and Barney Sadovsky of Rochdale Avenue are the grandparents of a boy, Jason David Steinberg. Born at Princeton Medical Center on Nov. 28, he weighed 6 lbs. 12 ozs. Parents are Helen and David Steinberg of Dayton, N.J.



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EDITH ERNSTEIN

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MINUTES AGO**The Liboves: When self-reliance ruled the day**

By Arthur Shapiro

One of the original cooperatively owned and managed enterprises that were the basis of this town was the Jersey Homesteads Agricultural Association. Started in 1936, this farm cooperative was expected to produce the food, poultry, dairy and meat supply for the original community. After the first year, however, it became evident that the enterprise couldn't be operated efficiently just to feed so tiny a town, and, therefore, it was expanded to become a commercial enterprise.

During this time Fay Libove was promised a job in the hat department of the town factory. Her new husband, Leo, was the recent top graduate of the National Farm School. After being selected as original settlers, they moved to town in 1936 from New York. Houses were scarce then and the Liboves had to live with the Chasans until their own home was ready. For some reason, Fay's promised job at the factory was unavailable. Luckily, Leo, because of his background, was able to get a farm job. They were pleased because they thought this was a way to work toward owning their own farm some day.

When the farm cooperative was terminated in 1940, the federal government bought all the land and equipment at public sale. The next day, it leased equal parts of the general crop farm to the five farmers who originally operated that part of the cooperative. The various

units of the general farm were later sold to the lessees, including Leo. Thus, Leo and Fay were able to buy their 130-acre farm for less than \$18,000. As part of the deal they also had to buy the equipment and the crops in the ground.

Over the years the Liboves grew corn, wheat, hay, potatoes and soybeans. They also raised cows and chickens. Years later Leo's brother, Abe, moved his family from New York to join in as a partner.

Leo's ability as a farmer was well respected, and for many years he was an instructor at the Hechalutz Farm in Etra, which trained youngsters for kibbutz life in Israel. But despite Leo's abilities, the price of things like potatoes and eggs dropped, while costs like feed rose. Along with most farmers in the area, the Liboves sold the business, and bought a house in town. Since then, Leo's jobs included working for organizations such as Forrestal Research and Food Machinery Corp., both in Princeton. One such position included working on an early process for producing oil from coal.

From the beginning, the Liboves were active in the community. Leo was one of the first to serve on the Board of Education and the town's council.

His house abounds with fine wood carvings as well as objects that could be created only by a skilled machinist.

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Liboves: (Cont'd. from P.15)

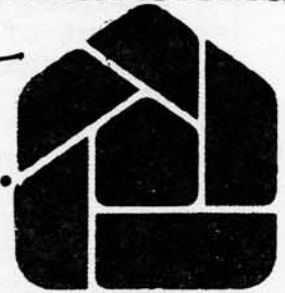
Leo also taught himself to play the mandolin, and performs with the Roosevelt Community Band.

But that's not how I first met the Liboves. One of the first times, I guess, was when they enrolled Judy, their only child, in the kindergarten class of the Jersey Homesteads School in September 1940. I, too, was being enrolled, and Judy and I were classmates until we graduated from Hightstown High School. (We're still good friends.) She is now a

social worker living in Lawrenceville with her husband and two daughters. They are a large part of the reason that Fay and Leo remain in the area now that they are retired. Said Fay, "What place do we know better? We are comfortable here."

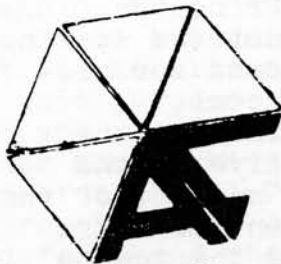
Today, when self reliance is a rare commodity, there are still people around who mastered many things and thought nothing of it. Such people are the Liboves. Those of us who know them feel fortunate that their personal history has been intertwined with that of this town's.

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NOTES AND PASSAGES**The far south side of town: Roosevelt in Florida**

By Freda Hepner

We're driving on a highway-- a different number, but it locks like the New Jersey Turnpike. It's Florida though, yet like New Jersey--flat and humid. But warmer now in December, much warmer, and certainly much cleaner.

On this semi-business trip, we have seen several small towns and cities in a very few days. This exit now is Delray Beach and we exit to another New Jersey connection. My husband has remembered that the Bergs live here. "Let's say hello," he says.

We call Sol and are immediately invited for lunch, coffee, dinner, an overnight stay, whatever: very welcoming. Their development, a retirement village, is equipped with every imaginable leisure facility. In the vast recreation building is an auditorium where films and shows are presented almost nightly. Well, once at home we had The Deer Hunter almost in our back yard.

The Bergs' home is a bit smaller than their place in New Jersey; but just as they haven't changed, neither has the comfort of their living room. The walls are covered with the works of Roosevelt artists. The Bergs talk about all the other Roosevelt retirees who have settled in Delray or nearby, and how often they visit together. They weren't all friends back in New Jersey, but now they're closer, all being fellow strangers in a strange southern land. They've known each other many years - almost from the beginning, someone says. They know each other's children and sometimes the grandchildren as well.

So we talk about Roosevelt a little - not much - and we listen to how they are and that is just fine. Have they made new friends? Of course...but their "real friends" are from "their" town. Sol says, "The people here look at our walls and don't understand. We explain that this is the art of our town, but they don't know what we're talking about." He feels a bit sorry for them, I think.

I'm reminded of May Sarton's novels. The protagonists are all over 60, but Sarton's writing is so vivid and her people so vital and interesting that their age is important only in that they bring a wealth of experience to her stories.

But the highway calls, that far Southern spur: Aye, 95. We hug, exchange various regards. They're busy planning a day in Fort Lauderdale to see the Prestopino retrospective and be reunited with "their friends." We get back in the car, head back to "their" town. Our town.

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council (Cont'd. from P.18)

in the area. Mayor Barth also reported to the council the possibility of obtaining emergency funds from the Environmental Protection Agency but had not received final word regarding reception of these funds as of Dec. 29.

In committee reports, Chairwoman Jan Terry of the re-creation committee announced that the \$800 requested by the P.T.A. for use in the summer camp program would be included as a line item in the upcoming budget.

The council gave unanimous approval to the Fire Company officers whose election was reported in the November Borough Bulletin.

The Borough Council, after stirring controversy and triggering a heavy community turnout, decided by a vote of 3-2 to drop Wilbur Loftus as special police officer and Adlerman, Click & Co. as the borough's insurance agent. And, after rejecting the council's input as "frivolous" and "illegal," Mayor Leon Barth named Lynn Frank to replace Virginia Edwards on the Planning Board. The public's response to the moves was mixed, but strong.

After the stormy Jan. 14 council meeting, the panel held a joint session with the school board. The two groups have been enmeshed in litigation, and a flyer circulated to some homes in the borough had threatened to keep the joint meeting from beginning peacefully. But it began smoothly anyway.

The usual reappointment of Loftus as special police officer failed to come at the council's reorganization meeting Jan. 5. A motion to appoint him was

brought up again at the regular meeting Jan. 14 but was defeated by a vote of 3 to 2. In the resulting rush of community sentiment, Esther Marton described the action as "inhumane" treatment of an employee for 39 years who she said "had a way with young people." A motion by Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes to grant Loftus three months' severance pay passed by 3 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

On the insurance matter, the council had met in special session Dec. 22 to consider bids for the borough's insurance coverage; the quorum then consisted of Council members Bill Counterman, Lou Esakoff, Jan Terry, and Magnes. They accepted the bid of Allen & Stults Co. of Hightstown to provide insurance; their 3-0 vote, with Magnes abstaining, thus terminated the Adlerman, Click Co. as agent. At the Jan. 14 meeting, members of the public called for an explanation, and Administrative Committee Chairman Esakoff cited a lower bid by Allen & Stults and difficulties in billing that he said had occurred with Adlerman, Click.

The council's involvement with potential Planning Board appointments for 1981 arose at the Dec. 12 meeting when Councilman Leslie Wiener introduced what he called a sense-of-the-council resolution. Mayor Barth strongly opposed the discussion which he said could have no binding effect because the law clearly authorizes the mayor alone to make planning board appointments. Councilmen Esakoff and Aaron Datz both disagreed, arguing that it was appropriate to hold the discussion to have, as Esakoff put it, "a sense of the council on record."

Wiener's resolution stated: "It is our belief that present members of the (Planning) Board who have served the community well, who have been diligent in their duties, who are willing to continue serving should not be denied reappointment by the mayor unless he states clearly and publicly the reasons why he deems the termination of such service in the best interests of the borough." It was supported by Council members Datz, Esakoff, Wiener and Magnes, with Counterman and Terry opposed. Following the meeting, Terry reaffirmed her view that the statement was "not necessary" and said she expects that "any council member would be able to receive an explanation of appointments from the mayor," though this shouldn't be made public.

Mayor Barth fired back at the Jan. 14 meeting. His statement said: "A frivolous motion regarding Planning Board appointments was passed by a 4 to 2 vote. Not only was this an illegal action by the council, but the motion would require the mayor to also break the law. I am upset and concerned that by and large the council does not understand its duties and responsibilities.

"A Borough Council is created by and operates under state statute. As such, it may take no other action than is spelled out under Title 40 of the statutes. I would hope the council would learn what their duties are."

Then Barth appointed Lynn Frank to the Planning Board as a Class IV member for a four-year term.

In the resulting public comments, George Levinson said that the mayor should act "not in his service, but in the town's service" and that he shouldn't "pack the planning

board." Levinson vowed to take whatever action is needed, "including a taxpayer's suit to prevent doing violence to the land use plan." Frank said that she resented the suggestion that she "didn't have a mind of her own" and that she would "say or do what she thought was best" as a member of the board. Levinson remarked that his statement wasn't meant to apply to any one person, but in general.

Meanwhile, Barth withheld further comment except to declare that "my previous appointments have been in the best interests of the community. I have no reason to doubt that this one will be."

The mayor later summarized several points in recent years' Planning Board appointments: In January 1978, Mel Friedman and Virginia Edwards were appointed as Class IV members for four-year-terms--an illegal move, Barth said, because one should have been for four years and the other for three years so the Class IV appointments could terminate successively, one a year. Also that year, Peter Berlinrut was appointed as a Class IV member for four years when he should have been a Class II member, that is, as a borough employee with year-to-year appointment, Barth added.

These illegalities were recognized during 1980 and, at the recommendation of the council lawyer, a statement was made at the September 1980 council meeting to correct the matter in the 1981 board appointments. According to the mayor, it was made clear at the September meeting that Virginia Edwards was the appointee to be considered

(Cont'd. on next page)

council

(Cont'd. from previous page)

to have had the now-expiring three-year term. No other notification was given to the Planning Board members involved at that time, Barth added.

But when asked about the termination of her appointment, Edwards said that "at no time did the mayor ever speak of this with me, although I was present at a meeting with him every month and see him frequently when I am walking around town. I only learned of it from a casual statement by another councilman." Edwards, saying she hoped any board member would take a long-range view of the borough, wished Frank well in the new position. And of Levinson's promise to protect the land-use plan, Edwards said she agrees "with the principle he supports."

One more Planning Board seat remains to be filled with a Class II member; this could mean either the reappointment of Berlinrut or appointment of another member representing borough employees.

Appointments at the Jan. 5 meeting other than to the Planning Board represented no change: Donald Lomurro as the municipal attorney, and Jim DeMuro of Schoor, DePalma & Gillen as municipal engineer and sanitary engineer. Council President Esakoff was sworn in for a second term, while Datz, who also was re-elected in November, was out of town and will be sworn in later. Committees also are unchanged.

In other business Jan. 5, Barth's motion to name Roy Terry to a new position of water and sewer trainee was tabled by the council. Magnes argued that the council hadn't had a chance

to study the job description and that the budget line for this position hadn't been stipulated. On Jan. 14, the council by a 3 to 2 vote gave itself time to study the proposal; members pledged to handle the matter as quickly as possible--within the suggested three-month deadline.

The matter of cable television in Roosevelt was addressed at the Jan. 12 council agenda meeting in response to interest expressed by Lynn Frank, Andrea Lakin, and others. Glenn Smith of Storer Communications in East Windsor informally presented information.

He said Storer's East Windsor trunk cable lines pass $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Roosevelt. Because of the economic limitations of serving a small community, Smith said Storer would likely be the only company to submit a bid if the borough sought a cable supplier.

He figured the per-mile cost of stringing aerial cable at \$10,000 and underground cable (used when utilities are buried) at \$16,000. Roosevelt would need about 8.3 miles of cable, he estimated, and he said the borough's 37 homes-per-mile was below the national average of 40 to 50 homes per mile. Given these facts and a rate schedule comparable to East Windsor's (monthly rates of \$6.95 for basic service and a variety of options that could raise the total programming package to \$32 per month), the cable company would operate at a loss in Roosevelt, Smith asserted.

Frank remarked that 531 future housing units would swell the homes-per-mile average to nearly 100. Councilman Esakoff, asking if higher rates would make cable

feasible with the present or near-future housing density, was told rates could be changed if Roosevelt would accept a different rate structure than East Windsor's.

The borough would receive a 20% franchising tax from the cable company with another 2% to the state. It would take about 10 months to apply to the Board of Public Utilities for cable rights, hold the required public hearing, and provide the hardware.

The council cemetery committee in recent months has notified lot owners of possible violations of the cemetery ordinance about plantings on burial sites. Esakoff said the committee intends to "deal in accordance with the ordinance," but Mrs. Toby Goldstein brought an appeal on behalf of her family at the Dec. 12 meeting.

She said the family had "requested and received (the synagogue's) permission at the time the burial site was chosen" to include plantings, which are on a ledge and which she said don't interfere with maintenance. She showed pictures and offered her reasons for maintaining the site as it is now, and expressed frustration at being sent back to the committee when she had been urged by it to present her case to the full council. Esakoff reiterated the committee's hope to deal with everyone uniformly, but the panel again took the matter under advisement.

An amendment to the zoning ordinance was brought to first reading at the council's Jan. 14 meeting; it received yes votes from all present except Magnes who voted against it. The measure would limit to 30 feet the height of structures built in zones R-40 and C-40. It

also states that where "two residential lot lines abut, no accessory structure may be located closer than 20 feet to the rear lot line. Accessory structures more than 10 feet in height shall be set back one additional foot for each additional foot in height."

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council

(Cont'd. from previous page)

A resolution to amend the Master Plan was also passed. See article on December planning board meeting.

Councilwoman Magnes, noting the increased burning of wood in the borough and the current efforts of Peter Berlinrut to investigate ordinances regarding removal of wood from public property, asked residents not to take any wood from borough property unless the wood is clearly fallen and dead. The aim is to protect wooded areas.

Following the council's regular January meeting, it held a joint meeting with the Roosevelt School Board. The two groups have been entangled in a legal dispute that includes the use of funds in the free appropriation balance of the school's budget.

Despite the flyer, allegedly circulated by someone on the school board side, that threatened the meeting, discussion got right under way with Councilwoman Magnes' explanation of her understanding of the present status of the free appropriation balance. This appears to stand at \$143,683, including the \$40,000 removed from the budget by the council but restored by the decision of Commissioner Fred Burke. This \$40,000 has been returned to the taxpayers. The balance considered by Magnes exceeds the 3% to 10% of operating balance which, according to her investigation of state guidelines, is appropriate for the free balance.

New school board member Al Hepner requested the council to say what it hoped to accomplish in the meeting.

Weiner replied that the council sought a compromise but didn't have a firm proposal and hoped to hear from the board.

Board member Bruce Lakin discussed the free appropriation balance as viewed by the school board. It includes appropriation for the 1980-81 school year of \$32,700 and an anticipated shortfall in the budget of \$18,000. Without the \$40,000 removed by the council, this leaves \$58,000, of which \$33,000 is expected to be put on the ballot as a referendum for a capital outlay for building repairs. These changes bring the balance well within the 10% guideline.

Councilman Esakoff asked what the board would do with the \$40,000 if the litigation ended. David Herrstrom of the board mentioned studies of the school's heating and insulation which could lead to a ballot question seeking public approval for use of this money.

Magnes questioned the effect on taxes if the \$40,000 were returned to the school budget. Lakin projected that, not only the \$50,000 (\$40,000 free balance plus \$10,000 in line item cuts by the council) need to be made up (since it wasn't included in this year's tax levy), but also that this year's budget would include and increase from a budget that included the \$50,000. Therefore both amounts plus any increase in the new school budget would be reflected in the coming year's taxes. Lakin stated that he "did not care to impose that burden on the community."

Before the meeting closed, Howard Prezant, speaking as Custodian of Funds for both groups, made a plea for coordination between the council and the board to achieve stability in tax rates for the

good of the community.

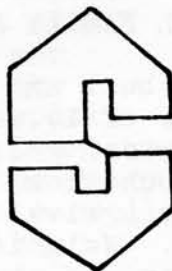
Contacted later, Esakoff called the meeting "very, very hopeful" and said "the council is prepared to drop the appeal" if the board accepts some terms that he expected to be formulated at a special council meeting on Jan. 22.

A petition to the council for the reinstatement of Wilbur Loftus as town constable has been posted in the store for interested residents to sign.

WELCCME TO THE REAL MCKCOYS

On Sept. 1 Thermon and Helen McKoy moved into their new home at 12 Farm Lane. Thermon works for Coca-Cola in Hightstown, and Helen is employed by McGraw-Hill in East Windsor. Their son, Ray, attends Hightstown High School. Prior to their move to Roosevelt, they resided at the Dorchester Arms Apartments, East Windsor, and before that in Upstate New York.

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KASSAHUNS AT 15 PINE DRIVE

Bahiru and Ann Kassahun and family moved to 15 Pine Drive last September. Dr. Kassahun is a research engineer at Western Electric in Princeton. Ann is studying for a masters degree in criminal justice. Their son, Clifton, is a student at Mercer County Community College; their daughter, Stephanie, attends Hightstown High School. The Kassahuns also have a son, Alemayehu, three years old, and a daughter, Senayit, six months old.

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ROYAL FAMILY HAS A SON

Robert and Veronica (Ronnie) Royal of 14 Tamara Drive were surprised while vacationing in Rochester, N.Y., by the early arrival of a son, John Paul. Weighing 6 pounds 12 ounces, he arrived a full three weeks early on Jan. 1 at 11:36 p.m. He joins his sister Elizabeth, age 2.

Wishing Well

Lewis Gay
Morris Chasan
Gus Chasan

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