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This is Your Future Master Plan to be Aired

By Bob Clark

Borough residents will have an official opportunity to comment on Roosevelt's proposed new master plan at a public hearing to be held at 8:00 P.M. on March 16 in the borough hall. For the past several months the planning board has reviewed and revised numerous drafts prepared by board chairman Alan Mallach, a professional planner. Copies of the latest draft are available in the borough hall.

After the public hearing, the revised plan will, if adopted by the board, guide development in the town for the next six years. Under state law a municipality must reexamine its master plan at least every six years or face serious difficulty in defending its zoning and other land use regulations against legal challenge.

Highlights of the draft for discussion include:

1) increasing growth pressures on Roosevelt and its surrounding communities, including the so-called "Route 1 Corridor";

2) constraints on development due to the continuing failure of the sewer system to meet state and federal water quality standards;

3) questionable ability of the

water system to accommodate added development of any substantial size;

4) recognizing a "rural enclave" that may continue in portions of the Monmouth County panhandle, including Roosevelt;

5) special features of Roosevelt not typical of the surrounding region (historical designations, abundance of publicly-owned open space interwoven with private lots, largely single-family character of the housing, etc.);

6) Roosevelt's location within an agriculture area in the state development guide plan and within an agriculture/conservation area in the county growth management guide;

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7) extending the town's traditional "cluster" residential pattern into the next likely area of growth, the "Notterman tract" east of North Valley Road (with borough officials and their consultants determining the amount and location of open spaces, development and roads, rather than a prospective developer);

8) conditioning development of the Notterman tract on the ability of any developer to demonstrate the availability of adequate water and sewer facilities for any proposed development and the rest of the community served by the water and sewer systems;

9) rezoning of a wooded tract along Windsor-Perrineville Road from agricultural to 2.5 acre lot-residential;

10) rezoning of a wooded parcel on the southern side of Oscar Drive from industrial to 2.5 acre lot-residential (a zoning ordinance change was already scheduled for a public hearing and decision by council at its February 11 regular meeting);

11) amending the commercial zone restrictions to allow more diverse retail and service businesses and to encourage the construction of a second commercial building on the tract presently occupied by the building containing a delicatessen, pizza parlor, package liquor store and residential apartment (and to reduce the permitted commercial floor area for the tract from the present 10,000 square feet to 7,500 square feet);

12) adding commercial zoning restrictions to ensure proper landscaping, siting of buildings and architectural review in the town's commercial "center" in keeping with the character of the Roosevelt historic district;

13) performing a study to determine whether all or part of the area north of Oscar Drive, presently zoned light industrial, should be rezoned agricultural or continue as industrial (with clearer designation of permitted uses, such as office buildings, and a minimum 200 foot setback for any building fronting on North Rochdale);

Editor

David Brahinsky

Contributing Writers

Peter Berlinrut, Bob Clark, Aaron Datz
Peter Gould, Herb Johnson, Gloria Hazell
Florie Johnson, Becky Russell, Helga Wisowaty
Arthur Shapiro, Joe Solomon, Adeline Weiner

Production

Lynn Friedman, Gloria Hazell

Business

Lynn Friedman, Adeline Weiner, Lillian Warren

14) continuing the present agricultural designations on the lands along North Rochdale and Nurko roads (requiring 10-acre or larger tracts) and exploring ways to strengthen and preserve agriculture in Roosevelt on a long-term basis;

15) embodying open space preservation in the cluster standards of the land use ordinance; and

16) adopting a new zoning map.

The planning board also scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 P.M., March 4 (before its regular monthly meeting) on the housing element of the master plan. This document is also available for inspection at the borough hall.

Under state law a council on affordable housing may certify that a housing plan submitted by a municipality meets its constitutional obligation to provide its fair share of lower income housing. The council on affordable housing has determined that Roosevelt's lower income housing obligation through 1993 is two units. Since the solar village's 20 units may be applied to meet this obligation, the draft master plan concludes that Roosevelt should seek certification of its housing plan at the present time. Certification would confer substantial protection from exclusionary zoning

litigation on Roosevelt. By August 1, 1988, all municipalities must submit a housing element as part of their master plans.

Roosevelt's small fair share obligation stems from its location in an agricultural area. Thus, it is responsible to meet the housing needs only of lower income households already living within the community. The town has also avoided the type of large scale development that might have increased its fair share obligation.

At its February 4 regular meeting the planning board approved a conditional variance allowing construction of a single-family house on approximately one acre on the western side of Route 571 several hundred feet north of Nurko Road. Although its presence in the agricultural zone would ordinarily have required that the lot be at least 10 acres, the lot had preexisted the 10-acre requirement, and the board decided that the owner qualified for a hardship variance.

The lot had previously been the site of oil storage tanks, and the new owner, Mr. Toto, had removed contaminated soil to make the site suitable for a residence. He satisfied the board that he could neither sell the lot to a neighboring farmer nor buy surrounding land sufficient to meet the 10 acre requirement. Due to marginal visibility reported by a traffic engineer, the board conditioned variance approval on construction of a U-shaped driveway. It also required the elimination of sufficient earth and vegetation from the vicinity of entrances to the driveway to maintain unrestricted views of traffic on Route 571.

The board also listened to an informal proposal from Mr. Gerling to donate 6 acres of wetlands along North Rochdale south of the service station in return for approval to build 8 condominium units on his property at the northern end of School Lane. Chairman Mallach noted that such development would substantially deviate from the present character of the neighborhood and advised Gerling that he would have to either seek a variance from the zoning board, formally ask the planning

board to recommend a zoning change to the council or ask the council to change the zoning -- recognizing that the council would first have to obtain the planning board's recommendation.

At its January 7 regular meeting the planning board passed a motion suggesting to the zoning board that any approval for a variance (allowing an addition to the residential apartment in the deli building to extend 3.3 feet beyond the rear yard setback allowed in the zoning ordinance) require that certain conditions be met. The conditions include retaining the buffer of trees in the rear, a deed restriction limiting the residential portion to single-family use, the zoning board's resolve that there be no further residential expansion on the site and agreement among the two boards and the owner as to an overall landscaping plan. Mayor Freda Hepner and council member Ralph Seligman, both members of the planning board, voted against the motion, as they preferred a condition that there be no further commercial development on the site, as well as no further residential development. Chairman Mallach, vice chairman Mel Friedman and board members Deborah Metzger, Gail Hunton and Anita Cervantes voted in favor of the motion.

MALLARD ENTERPRISES

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School Enrollment Down, Taxes Up

By Peter Warren

The 1987-88 school budget will be presented to public hearing on March 16, when each line item will be reviewed. The School Board pro-poses an increase of \$100,448.

In the last three years the school tax has been raised once, lowered once, and kept unchanged once.

The proposed budget, at \$913,000, will be 7% higher than the current budget, which, in turn, is 6% higher than last year. It will be about \$18000 below the cap - the budget ceiling (short of special permission from the State Department of Education).

Enrollment declined from 147 last year to 124 this year (public school 101-82 and high school 41-37). The enrollment for the coming year is expected to rise to 140 next year. The decline cost us about \$75000 in state aid in the new budget: by 1988/89 state equalization aid, based on the previous year's enrollment, can be expected to increase again. But, for next year, borough taxes must provide 60% of revenues, compared to 53% in the current budget.

Since passage of the Public School Education Act of 1975, the state has increased its aid to communities like Roosevelt which do not have large taxable industrial or commercial base and hence are supported by residential taxes. Parallel to increased financial assistance, the state has, of course, increased its mandated programs. Federal funding is about 1%-2% of the school budget, in addition to projects for which funding is received too late to get included in the budget.

The latest NJEA figures suggest that the School Board has kept a tight rein on expenses. From 1981-82 to 1984/85, the gap between the cost of operating Roosevelt primary school and the average State per pupil cost has narrowed sharply. The State average

rose from \$3300 to almost \$4400. Roosevelt costs rose only from \$4596 to \$4930. In other words, the State average went up 33%, while Roosevelt costs went up 5%. Figures for 1984 and 1985 show that about two-thirds of our local tax dollars goes to education.


The cost per pupil is comparatively high because so much of the budget consists of fixed costs; for example, salaries, mandated programs, utilities, insurance, which do not vary with the number of pupils. To put it another way, the primary school facility is underutilized. At little additional cost, the same number of teachers and classrooms could teach perhaps as many as 50 more pupils.

Tuition is paid to Hightstown High for each of the 39 9-12 grade pupils bussed there this year: 35 are forecast for next year.

The public meeting on March 16 will offer Rooseveltians, and particularly newcomers and parents of school children, opportunity to learn about our school system and its budget process.

A copy of the budget will be mailed to each boxholder before the meeting, and residents are invited to phone Dr. Sussman, Administrator of the Roosevelt School, with any questions they may have before the meeting.

**R. D. ROBERTS
OPTICIAN**



DISTINCTIVE EYEWEAR

(609) 448-0870
440 Rt. 130 at Princeton Rd.
E. Windsor, N.J. 08520

RICHARD D. ROBERTS

COUNCIL NEWSRe-Zoning

At the January 14th meeting, with all members present, the major action taken was the introduction of a re-zoning ordinance to change Lot 1 Block 6 (the land from So. Oscar Drive at Rte 571 to the water treatment plant) from industrial (I-80) to residential use in the R100 zone district (2 1/2 acre lots). The Planning Board had recommended, in article 4, that in view of constraints on the present sewer system which make the costs of extending sewer and water lines prohibitive, on-site sewerage systems (septic tanks) would be allowed. The number of lots and dwellings that could be developed was thought to be about three at most. An interested developer, Mr. Harry Parker, was present.

Arts Project Grant

A resolution to accept a \$5000 grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation, awarded the Roosevelt Arts Project, was passed. Jacob Landau, chair of the project, wrote to say that the grant will bring "recognition (that) will help inaugurate a new chapter in the already distinguished cultural history of our town."

Other business included approval of \$450 for new fire truck tires; the appointment of Robin Axel to the Welfare board to replace Robin Gould who had to resign; a proposal to acquire a new flag to replace the one recently stolen from the premises; and the defeat (4 to 2) of a motion by B. Leefer to repeal a resolution previously passed enabling the Boro attorney to explore the legality and viability of the cemetery ordinance.

Article 4 Reconsidered

On February 11, with all the councilmembers present except L. Selden, a second reading of the rezoning ordinance produced a proposal to change article 4 and its proposal

for on-site sewerage systems (septic tanks). Councilmember Seligman, who as council representative on the Planning Board first proposed the R-100 zoning (2 1/2 acre residential lots), now, on reconsideration, recommended that the Planning Board be asked to re-examine the possibility of extending sewage and water lines to service this area. If such be feasible, the lot size could then be reduced to an R-40 designation i.e. to regular 1/2 acre lots plus green belt areas and in this way obtain further support for our costly sewer system. "Creating a half-sewer and half-not situation in town", Seligman now feels is inappropriate and contrary to the public interest. In the public discussion period several speakers expressed concern about the problem of connecting dwellings to the sewer lines as well as indignation over the "run-around" given the developer, Mr. Parker. Mr. Leefer claimed that the area by its nature could not provide that many smaller lots and also warned against the cost of the proposed sewer connections. Mr. Seligman stated that our Planning Board is probably more responsive than most and would not drag things out unnecessarily. He also felt strongly that in the long run, public purpose would best be served by increasing the number of households involved in a unified community-wide system.

Carol Watchler, Council President, moved to delete article 4 of proposed ordinance 97-11 and to communicate to the Planning Board the Council's concern that new residential zoning be tied, where possible, to the Boro sewer system, in which case, R-100 should then be changed to R-40. The motion was passed 4 to 1 (Leefer opposed).

Recycling Changes

Administration Committee Chair Watchler cited several draft changes to the recycling ordinance: newspapers, (not magazines or junk mail) and tin and bimetal cans are now added to the list of materials to be recycled. Lou Esakoff, Boro Recycling Coordinator,

reported that at a meeting of County Freeholders, he presented the Boro's critical problems regarding recycling; namely that due to our small size, the cost of pick-up of recycled material is forbidding and simply cannot be met by our efforts alone. His strong presentation was acknowledged by County leaders present.

Water/Sewer News

Ed. Moser, Public Utility Committee Chair, reported on ongoing negotiations between Boro Engineer Birdsall and the Department of Environmental Protection who are pressing for a schedule of both immediate and near-future plans for sewage/water management. The actual figures come to over \$100,000 for this year and in the area of \$300,000 by 1988. The committee is discussing the idea of floating a bond and may be forced to consider another rise in the monthly household rate. Flouting the insistent DEP people would mean stiff fines, expensive litigation and direct government-imposed repairs at a huge cost to the municipality.

Moser announced the just-completed installation and the start of operation of two security alarm systems for the water and sewer plants which are already proving effective in preventing breakdown in the water supply. A rental maintenance and installation bill of \$1342 was voted on and passed 4 to 1 (Leefer opposed). Leefer stated that he had previously proposed an alarm system that would cost \$179.95, but as several council members pointed out no specifications were submitted and Leefer himself was out of town during the debate, so no action was possible. Seligman suggested that even though the present system was already installed and working, a truly economical alternate system, given the specifics, might well be examined.

And More...

Jim Alt, Chair of the Public Property Committee, reported several items for action by the Council: A new statement of policy on storing equipment in the Boro Hall was presented for approval. The clearly worded statement makes explicit the responsibilities to

be undertaken by groups using the Hall, regarding storage, use, repair and restitution. An appropriate space for the Food Co-op's refrigerator has been assigned and all groups will be required to conform.

Mr. Alt was asked to require the Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission to use the same type and timing of pesticide spraying as last year before agreeing to the scheduled dates for spraying in Roosevelt: March 1 - October 31.

Approval was given to Hadassah's request of the Boro Hall for a fund-raising event.

In response to a letter from Ms. Nina Burghardt regarding protection of our community from vehicles carrying toxic waste, the Council after discussion among public visitors and council members alike, agreed to send still another message on this subject to various authorities. The following resolution passed 4 to 1 (Leefer abstained): "The Boro Council of Roosevelt calls upon the State Police and the Dept. of Environmental Protection to enforce all laws and codes concerning vehicles which carry toxic and radioactive waste." Copies will be sent to local newspapers, neighboring towns, and County Freeholders. Mayor Hepner urged that Roosevelt citizens write individually to local lawmakers.

Other actions taken include a resolution authorizing a fireworks display for the next July 4th celebration but only on the proviso that safety measures be improved over last year. Paul Eichler presented the Council with a new flag to replace the one recently stolen from the Boro Hall, one that he obtained from Congressman Chris Smith. The new flag will be locked up except for appropriate public display. Boro Clerk Krystyna Bieracka told the Council that the garbage truck drivers reported two truck fires caused by dumping hot ashes from cans picked up on the regular collection route. This paper was asked to announce the following warning: **DANGER!! DO NOT DUMP HOT ASHES IN YOUR TRASH CANS, PLEASE!**

By Adeline Weiner

ISSUE & DEBATE

A Reply to Mr. Warren

Peter Warren's assessment of our local government, a repeat of his diatribe last fall, seems to me not only mean-spirited but chockful of misinformation. Everyone has a right to jeer at elected officials (how else could we survive Reagan?) but if you are complaining about public business of which

others have knowledge, you had better ascertain the facts and try to be truthful. I don't think Peter meets this minimum requirement.

He doesn't believe the borough calls upon (quoting our Mayor) "professionals among its residents for services that other municipalities pay dearly for." Don't we? Let me name Ralph Seligman, Alan Mallach, Elly Shapiro, Bob Clark, Naomi Brahinsky, Catherine Carter, Gail Hunton, Hortense Socholitsky, Bernie Leefer, Howard Chasen, and the Seldens -- I'm sure there are others -- who donate their professional services to the borough. In contrast, when Peter did a report on the plastic leaf situation, he asked for and received \$2000 from the Council.

On the question of grants Peter doesn't seem to be aware of the vast difference between the Carter and Reagan Administrations. All our grants came from the much maligned peanut farmer. Since Reagan our "grants" were routed to the Pentagon. The Council thought it a reasonable investment to pay an experienced and recommended grantsperson to test the tightfisted Administration. The attempt failed, but I'm not convinced this proves the Council was "careless with money".

I served a term on the Council while Schorr and Associates was the borough engineer. The majority of the Council was extremely uneasy about the cost of Schorr's services, its recommendations and its relations with the Mayor. The Council was skeptical of Schorr's estimate to rebuild the water treatment plant at \$530,000 and voted to obtain a second opinion. This was

vehemently opposed by the Mayor and six executives from Schorr who came to the Borough Hall to dissuade us. The second opinion confirmed that the job could be done for \$300,000, at which sum the work proceeded. There is no evidence that it was Schorr who brought grants into town. When the new present Administration replaced Schorr with William Birdsall, the majority of the Council heaved a sigh of good riddance.

As to the paving of Homestead Lane,

"someone" didn't decide to pave it, as Peter puts it; the \$37,000 was a State grant for the specific purpose of completing the asphaltting, a job interrupted by lack of funds. It was a question of Homestead Lane or nothing. Peter would have aced the State with Brown Street, not our most bustling thoroughfare.

In the matter of the Farm Lane extension at Solar Village, there was no agreement between the Nottermans and the former Mayor. The present Administration had to make an agreement under adverse conditions because of the absence of one. "A little professional advice would have been helpful here," offers Peter Warren from his high judicial seat from which apparently he had trouble seeing the action.

No government in history has been free of flaws and it is unreasonable to expect that ours will be the first to achieve that lovely niche. But I have lived in Roosevelt 35 years and in my experience the present Administration is the least secretive, the least careless with money, the most open, the most protective of the community, and the most worthy of my wary support.

Leslie Weiner

Accuracy of statement is one of the first elements of the truth; inaccuracy is a near kin to falsehood.

T. Edwards

LETTER TO EDITOR

A Further Reply to Mr. Warren

Regarding Mr. Warren's article in your last issue of the Bulletin titled "For a More Open Government", I am, to say the least flabbergasted by his blatant distortions. Frankly, I thought that after the last few articles regarding recycling, the issue would be laid to rest. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Mr. Warren insists on resurrecting the issue of his costly and unfeasible proposal for recycling. Again, I remind him that the council in the previous administration rejected the proposal and when it came up in this administration, everyone remembered the uselessness of the proposal and rightfully rejected it again. I know, I was on both councils.

Regarding the grant situation, let me again remind everyone that since the Reagan administration came into office, grant money dried out - no one is getting any money, and it was and is not unusual for a municipality to pay a grantsperson to try to find money. What would Mr. Warren have said had the grantsman been successful?

Before hiring the current borough engineers, the council committee interviewed six engineering firms. In the interviewing process, each of the candidates stated clearly that there was no grant money available and that they would probably not do very much in the grant area for the borough. It is also important to point out that the previous engineering firm, when they did get some money for the borough, made a great deal of money. They were very uncharitable. I know, I was on the committee that interviewed the engineering firms while Mr. Warren was in the obscure African country gaining experience.

Since when do we ask the community which streets to pave? Doesn't Mr. Warren know that we have a streets and roads committee that investigates our needs and recommends to the council?

Did Mr. Warren bother to investigate how these decisions are made?

In reference to the Solar Village, Mr. Warren would do well to keep quiet. That project was so full of mistakes and miscalculations on the part of the persons involved that if all the errors were exposed, the least that would occur is that the powers that were would be very embarrassed. I suggest to Mr. Warren that before he runs his pen, that he get permission from the people about whom he is writing.

Now to Mr. Warren himself, the man who could not do even a dog census in accordance with state regulations which mandates that the census be done door to door. Mr. Warren insisted on doing the census over the telephone and reported a dog dead when in fact that dog was, that afternoon, defecating on lawns on Farm Lane. I know, I live on Farm Lane. For this Mr. Warren received \$100.00. This same Mr. Warren received \$2000 from the borough for a feasibility study on the leaf factory which some officials of the borough were anxious to have in Roosevelt. Only the persistence of some of the council members killed the project. I know, I was one of the councilpersons who opposed the project.

Is getting paid for projects Mr. Warren's definition of volunteerism? Volunteerism is what many of us do. We serve on the school board, borough council, planning board, zoning board and other committees without remuneration.

Finally Mr. Warren, since you admit that you don't attend meetings because you don't feel welcome, where do you get your information; second or third hand - that's rumor mongering.

Lou Esakoff

LETTER TO EDITOR

Intends to Run for Mayor

To the Editor:

The Roosevelt community is for the most part a pretty lucky one. We live in a beautiful and uncrowded corner of the most urbanized of the United States. We have relatively little crime, and many of us still leave our doors unlocked. We can still get along without a full-time police officer. All in all, it sounds as if we have no serious problems. but of course that is a mistake.

Our taxes are too high, and municipal services are just about minimal. The State has imposed a 3-5% "cap" on municipal budgets, so that even if we want to spend more money, we are prevented from doing so. And to top it off, federal revenue sharing has ended, at least for the time being.

In the last 15 months or so, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Borough Council- originally by invitation to replace George Levinson, whose presence is still missed on the Council, as well as elsewhere in the community- and since January I have been serving an elected full term. It's interesting and kind of fun trying to make a small community work.

Recently Mayor Hepner announced her intention not to run for reelection, and I'm going to try to succeed her in that office. I'm not running because I think I can solve the Borough's problems. No single resident (and in some cases not all of us together) can deal with all of our problems. Much of what we have to contend with are philosophies in Washington and Trenton that order municipalities to meet higher and higher standards of technical proficiency while systematically depriving them of money. Our tax base is so narrow and so limited that we keep waiting for a modern miracle in the form of a big "clean industry", which will bring a substantial ratable while not polluting the air or clogging our roads with traffic. Instead we find ourselves fighting off a toxic waste incinerator.

Even the recent struggle between "developers" and "non-developers" has taken a new form. Everyone knows that

there will be development: it now becomes a question of pace and rhythm, relatively fast development or relatively slow.

There are other big questions: the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection seems intent on imposing on Roosevelt \$3.5 million worth of water systems and sewer repairs over the next 18 months. That means that even if we take all the money presently collected for water and sewer (\$50 month/household for residential) and put it toward those repairs, and we didn't pay our water and sewer workers, our Borough Engineer, if we didn't pay for chemicals and electricity, and we did no preventive maintenance, it would take us something under twenty years to pay for it (assuming there were no interest charges).

Of course, we can't do that. What we will do will have to be an examination of methods of dealing with the problem; "jawboning" with the DEP; and figuring out how to raise the money by borrowing.

There's also the question of sewer and water hookup strategies for new housing; strategies for controlling seepage into the sewer lines; keeping our Borough equipment functioning without going on a wild spending spree; keeping the Fire Company well equipped with up-to-date equipment to keep its members and us safe. There are dozens more questions.

I've lived in Roosevelt since 1964. My children grew up and went to school here. Aside from my Council service, I substitute-taught in the Roosevelt Public School, and I ran a program for the PTA. I was a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. I'm very much a part of this community-- and I'm not particularly a member of any faction in it.

If you decide to make me the mayor, I won't solve all of our problems, but it might be interesting and productive for a lot of us to try to deal with some of them.

Very truly yours,
Ed Moser

MINUTES AGO

A New York Legal Education

By Arthur Shapiro

Roosevelt adolescents growing up in the late 1950's often overcame their "summer-claustrophobia" by seeking adventurous opportunities out of town. During those hot (pre-airconditioning) months most kids held summer jobs either cooking for Howard Johnson's on the Turnpike, candleing eggs for one of the dealers in town, vaccinating chickens on a crew, delivering for the local butcher or grocer, mowing lawns or "working with dad". Those who could avoid such sentences by escaping to other environs (particularly another state) for the summer, considered themselves lucky indeed. It was important for us, as kids from a small safe town, to get out and experience parts of the real world at every chance. One such opportunity came to me for the summer of 1956 when my Uncle Louie offered me a job as the "office boy" in his law office on Court Street in Brooklyn.

Uncle Louie was considered to be one of the top trial criminal lawyers in New York City and was often involved with interesting characters of the "felon" persuasion. He often told us stories of famous people and cases in which he was involved. In fact, every time we visited Uncle Louie and Aunt Pearl at their fancy apartment on Eastern Parkway across from the Brooklyn museum, some character would be staying with them who was either on his way into prison or just got out.

During the summer of 1956, I was between my Junior and Senior years at Hightstown High. My heart was set on becoming a lawyer. I read every book I could on the life and cases of Clarence Darrow. Was it any wonder I leapt at the opportunity to spend my summer working in a law office that dealt with some of the most exciting criminal cases in New York City?

And exciting it was! Each Sunday evening I would take a bus from Hightstown to Port Authority. From there I would take the subway to Eastern Parkway where I lived during the week. On

Friday afternoons I would return to Roosevelt to spend the week ends going out with my friends and telling them the highlights of my week in the City.

During the week, it was first class all the way! Every morning Uncle Louie and I would get up, get dressed and go to the barbershop across the street from his elegant law office on Court Street. The barber would give us each a haircut and shave, while another guy gave us a shine! Can you believe a seventeen year old kid from Roosevelt getting a haircut, shave, and shine every day! Uncle Louie made me feel classy! After the barber, we would then pick up his Law Journal newspaper which had all of the cases listed to be heard that day. He would circle his cases in red as we ate a breakfast of corned beef and/or pastrami and eggs with a bialy at the nearby delicatessen.

Once at the office, I had a variety of assignments. I ran errands for the lawyers such as copying police reports at the various precincts where Uncle Louie's clients were housed awaiting arraignment or processing. I also went to places with names like The Tombs, Reiker's Island, and Sing Sing in Osning, New York. I traveled to courts and offices all over New York City copying reports, filing papers, serving summonses, and even picking up clients as they checked out of prison on parole. I was learning a lot about being a lawyer.

The thing that taught me the most, however, was my involvement in one particular trial - that of a man named Dominic Graziano - brother of the middle weight champion, Rocky Graziano. After Dominic was arrested for Grand Larceny, Uncle Louie was hired to defend him by Rocky and his television show partner comedienne, Martha Raye. It was exciting for me to spend time with these people because they were famous. In fact, when I met Rocky in 1956, he was at the height of his fame

because the movie of his life, "Somebody Up There Likes Me" starring Paul Newman and Pier Angeli had just been released. Heady stuff for a small town kid.

However, it was Dominic, not Rocky that I remember best. The first time I met Dom we became friends. During the summer of his trial he took pity on Louie's "hick" nephew from the "sticks of New Jersey" and used his season passes to take his son and me to all of the evening Dodger games at Ebbots Field. I was always his guest. He bought me hot dogs and hamburgers and treated me like his little brother. I really grew to like the man.

During the trial, Uncle Louie let me attend every day where I would sit at the defense counselor's table with him and Dom in the front of the crowded court room. The prosecutor was an assistant DA named Keh (pronounced "Q") who looked like Clark Kent and had no sense of humor. Dom was caught with "the goods" by two Kojak-looking New York City Detectives who had less senses of humor than the Keh.

Uncle Louie explained his reasoning each time he chose or challenged the selection of a juror. His strategy was brilliant. When the trial itself began there were press people and spectators because of Rocky's fame.

I got to know Dom and his family pretty well since I'd spend many of my days with him at his trial in Brooklyn Criminal Court and many evenings with him and his son at Ebbots Field. During the trial Dom was out on bail.

As both the summer and the trial came to a close I began to get nervous. I realized that because of his record, my new friend could spend over twenty years in prison if found guilty. Uncle Louie knew that he couldn't win because of the evidence presented- he was going for a hung jury. The day finally came. Keh gave a brilliant summation but Uncle Louie's was better. I was optimistic.

The jury deliberated a long time- a good sign! A few days later, when we were finally called back to the courtroom for the verdict, my heart was in my mouth. Dom, too, was shaking. His wife, child, Rocky, Martha Raye, Uncle

Louie and I, all anxiously awaited the jury's verdict. The judge asked the foreman, "Have you reached a verdict?" "We have your honor," he replied. After verifying that the verdict was unanimous, the judge asked that Dom stand and face the jury. Uncle Louie and I stood up with him. I remember my stomach dropping as the verdict was read, "Guilty on all charges!"

The courtroom broke into Pandemonium! Flashbulbs exploded, and like Dom's family, I sobbed and shook as the bailiff led him away in handcuffs. I couldn't believe it!

It was then that I learned what being a lawyer was all about. As I turned to my uncle in tears and sobbed, "Uncle Louie, I'm so sorry!" Uncle Louie looked at me with a quizzical look and yelled, "Yutz-do you have any idea how much we are going to make on the appeal?"

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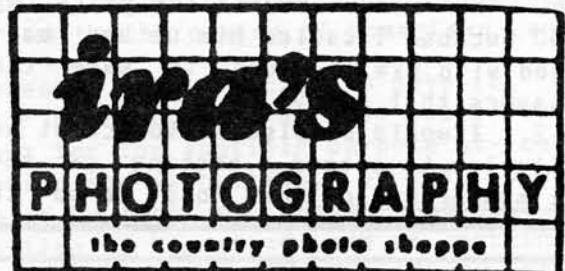
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LETTER TO EDITOR

Corrections and Inaccuracies

The Editor
The Borough Bulletin
Roosevelt, NJ 08555

To The Editor:

1. The "Council Report" was in error (January, 1987) when it said that the garbage contract was lowered by \$1000 because there will be no recycling. The vendor lowered the price by \$1000 because I called him up and bargained with him in order to save the taxpayers that money.

2. I would be pleased to accept an invitation to attend a meeting of the Full membership of the Food Co-op to

answer questions and tell the Council's side of the matter, if people think that would be useful.

3. And Peter Warren, I think, gets a prize for the least rational letter. Note that Peter Warren does not attend Council Meetings, has little idea and no knowledge of our local government, and his career in municipal public service was highlighted by his having been fired for incompetence as taker of the dog census.

Very Truly Yours,
Ed Moser

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Arts Project Does It Again

The Roosevelt Arts Project's third event, a presentation of the music of Canadian Folk Artist Stan Rogers by Roosevelt musicians on Saturday, February 7, was, as all agreed, a success. The Borough Hall was filled to and even beyond capacity and everyone, it seemed, had a good time.

The fourth event will be held on March 29 (Sunday) at 7:30 PM, a recital by local pianist Allan Mallach of original works by Mr. Mallach, local composer Laurie Altman and others. The Arts Project, which received a grant of \$5000 from the Grossman Foundation, will rent a concert grand for the occasion.

Fourth Committee Needs \$

The Fourth of July Committee is in need of funds for the Community's July 4th celebration. If you would like to send a donation, please address it to Fourth of July Committee, c/o June Counterman, Treasurer, Lake Drive, Roosevelt, NJ 08555.

In appreciation,
Nancy Warnick, Sec.

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NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

By Alison Edwards Petrilla
Media/Publicity Committee

The Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School (our official name now) is fast becoming a reality, as we continue to work toward our goal of a September opening date. Here's a summary of what we've been up to so far:

The Site Committee reports that we have narrowed our local possibilities to two, and by the time this article goes to press, we will be making a proposal to the officials at our first choice site.

The Fundraising Committee conducted two successful bake sales in February, besides masterminding a unique Singing Valentine service, featuring serenades by our two Special Messengers, Cheri Katz and Olivier Altman. We'd like to thank the bakers and buyers at the sales, and all of you Romantic Rooseveltians who purchased musical mementos.

Among our next fund-raising projects will be a booth selling children's toys, clothing and furnishings at the Roosevelt Public School PTA Flea Market on Saturday, March 21. If you are able to donate any items, the Edelstein family's front porch at 14 Homestead Lane is our drop-off point... thank you in advance!

We'd like to express our sincere appreciation to Michael Ticktin, our volunteer attorney; Lee Allen, our volunteer accountant; and Eitan Grunwald, our volunteer fundraising consultant; to the Senior Citizens Housing Corporation for allowing us to meet in the Solar Village Community Room when we were just getting started; to the Roosevelt Deli for distributing our flyers; and to Margaret Schlinski and the Roosevelt PTA for continued support.

We also say a special "thank you" to the generous Rooseveltians who have already made donations to our cause. These (tax-deductible) gifts are always welcome and can be sent to the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School, PO Box 153, Roosevelt.

We continue to need new volunteers to contribute ideas, expertise, and aid in our fundraising efforts. For more information on upcoming meetings, activities, etc., please call Joan Grossman at 448-9385. You don't have to be a parent of a three or four year old -- we're looking for friends of all ages!

Little Boys

The war that goes through a little
boy's mind
Can ruin a nation and all of mankind.
The war and hatred of a boy's
imagination
Are really the cries of an entire
nation.



The love and peace that are all around
Are turned into war as innocent lives
fall to the ground.
While the boys laugh-so gay and free
They think of war and dance merrily.

And the little boys don't understand
To them love is awful - and war just
grand!

By Jennifer Saslaw
Age 9

SENIOR CITIZEN COLUMNSenior Citizens Meeting
February 10, 1987

By Helga Wisowaty

Our trip to Club Bene on January 27 was postponed due to inclement weather. Our plans for this will be delayed until the weather is more promising.


The members voted to retain the present officers: Esther Pogrebin, President; Jeannette Koffler, Vice-President; Helga Wisowaty, Secretary; Sid Weisberger, Treasurer.

The phone number for the taxi is 446-6872.

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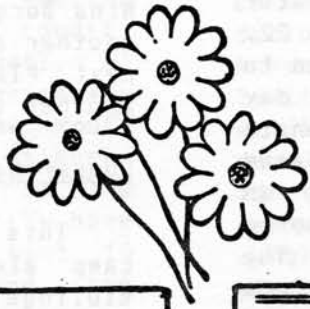
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P.T.A. NEWS

By J. Grossman

Toxic Waste Update

At the February 4 meeting of the Roosevelt Public School PTA, Millstone Homeowners Association representative Fred Siegel presented an update of events surrounding the siting of a toxic waste incinerator three miles from Roosevelt.

At presstime the Millstone group was planning a Toxic Waste Incinerator Awareness Week beginning February 22. Residents of the area would be urged to lobby a different legislator each day of the week urging passage of Senate Bill S2480 sponsored by Senator James Hurley (R-1st) which would mandate an 18-month moratorium on siting toxic waste incinerators in the state. The main components of the Hurley bill are that other technologies be investigated in the effort to find a solution to the toxic waste problem, including source reduction and on-site treatment. This is in lieu of the transport and disposition of toxic wastes in independent incinerators and landfills, as proposed by the State Hazardous Waste Siting Commission, chaired by former State Senator Frank Dodd, who authored the Hazardous Waste bill.

Members of the PTA voiced concern about remarks attributed to Mayor Hepner which appeared in Adeline Weiner's "Council Report" (January Borough Bulletin) that former "State Senator Frank Dodd (who chairs the Hazardous Waste Siting Commission) announced a postponement of the site search for at least 18 months." In fact, just the opposite is true and Senator Hurley's bill mandating a moratorium is bottlenecked in the Senate Energy Committee. Siegel noted that efforts during the week of February 22 and beyond would be directed at putting pressure on the committee to release the bill for a floor vote.

In other news, Siegel announced that the State Hazardous Waste Siting Commission had planned a public meeting at the State House Annex in Trenton on Wednesday, February 24 at 10 AM to

announce the results of investigations into the suitability of three potential sites, including Millstone, to host the incinerator. Siegel urged as many Roosevelt residents as possible to attend.

For further information on continuing developments, contact Roosevelt's liaison to the Millstone group, Nina Burghart at 443-4857. Siegel or another representative will attend the next PTA meeting (date TBA) with another update.

Summer Camp Adds Pre-School Program

This year, pre-schoolers can go to camp along with their school-aged siblings at the Roosevelt PTA's annual summer camp program at RPS. PTA president Margaret Schlinski announced that a special program will be held for potty-trained three-to-five-year-olds three days a week during July and early August. Jan Estenes will coordinate the pre-school program.

Flea Market Planned
To Benefit Summer Camp Fund

The Roosevelt PTA Summer Camp Fund will benefit from the proceeds of the upcoming PTA Flea Market, scheduled for Saturday, March 21 from 9:30-4:00PM. Among the tables sponsored by the PTA are a booktable, a white elephant table, childrens' activities, and food. We will gladly accept donations of items for the white elephant table. Call Margaret Schlinski 448-5180 for pick-up.

Entrepreneurs and anyone else with something to sell are invited to rent a space and/or table. Spaces are only \$5 each, if you also need a table for that space, the total cost is \$10. For more information contact Margaret Schlinski (448-5180) or Flip Unger (443-1206).

To reserve your table and or space, fill out and return the coupon below with your check made payable to Roosevelt PTA.

Return to Roosevelt PTA, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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Perhaps your eyes persuaded me, last summer,
joyful, tearful, under the willow
your father—my teacher—used to praise.
Perhaps your salt-wet cheekbones flashing sundrops
from a sieve of leaves above us, perhaps
the nurturing wisdom in so tender young a voice,
or the whims in your dancer's hands, the sway
of your slenderness, the way you put your arms
around the air and people, how earth seems
beneath you trusting, humble, mysterious,
persuaded me that your vocation is
the choreography of caring, anywhere you are.
No matter the shape of your employment,
you give it grace.

If anyone dares forget
that you are voice and limbs of love
in the midst of madness, let it not be you
who forgets, let it not be you who measures
the mind's emptiness without celebrating,
who weighs one rapture against another
without awe, who questions without laughter
the gift of our witnessing ignorance, who caresses
without pleasure the quivering moss and nebulae
of God's anatomy.

Neil R. Selden

Neil