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BULLETIN

Published by Roosevelt P.T.A.

Vol. V, No. ⁵/₄

Roosevelt, New Jersey

January 1982

Watershed consciousness: making and keeping our water safe

By Carol Watchler

The Problem

As anyone familiar with recent news reports knows, Central Jersey is a serious problem area with respect to the safety and viability of its drinking water. Rooseveltians must develop watershed consciousness and be alert to this situation so we can avoid the kinds of difficulties that nearby communities have suffered (such as Jackson Township where another "Love Canal" situation exists).

If any citizen has been spared the water problem that manifests itself as brown-tinted water in kitchen and laundry, he or she could still be aware that the water supply is a constant concern in Roosevelt by examining the agendas for regular borough council meetings in recent years. Hardly a month goes by without the discussion of some step to maintain, upgrade, or overhaul the water delivery or sewage treatment systems. Seldom do any of the borough's personnel responsible for provision of a water supply speak about

one system without pointing out the interconnection of problems between the two. This article concentrates on the water supply system and the treatment which is designed to make it safe and usable.

Townspeople seem to agree that the problems of discolored water had been aggravated in the past three to five years. One long-time resident assured that "It wasn't always this way. I remember in the early sixties when visiting friends marvelled at the quality of water for a small town."

The Treatment Process

A look at the water treatment process in this municipality reveals the complexity of technology required to produce a glass of drinking water in Central Jersey in the 1980's. As described by Steven Yeger in an earlier Borough Bulletin, our water source is the Raritan Aquifer from which we draw water near a depth of 400 feet. According to council member Aaron Datz, this would be potable water

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Watershed

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with slight adjustments in the pH (acid-alkaline balance) if it were not for the presence of a high iron content in water from the aquifer.

Treatment then, includes steps to remove as much iron as possible and the recent upgrading of the water treatment plant, now complete and about to go fully on line, is directed mainly toward chemical and mechanical means of removing the iron.

Treatment includes steps of aeration to provide oxygen, and chlorination to provide chlorine as an oxidizing agent which changes the iron to a chemical form easier to remove. Lime is added to adjust the pH, and, in the new system, a polymer is added to gather and remove what Tom Karpick, water-sewer plant operator, calls "minute jelly-fish like blobs" of iron particles. The new plant additions also include a system of baffles for the sedimentation tank to assist in removing iron particles. Karpick explained the importance of removing the greater portion of iron before the water passes through a filtration process to prevent or at least slow down the degradation of the sand filters.

At a special session of the Borough Council, Pete Chmiel, the borough's licensed water plant engineer, reported that the use of the polymer appears successful for iron removal in initial tests. At this time the polymer use is being observed to determine the optimum amount needed, according to Mayor Leon Barth.

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These new steps in the removal of iron, which prevent heavy dependence on the sand filters for removal, will make the system easier to maintain over the coming years.

In addition, the new well #4 is complete and awaiting final state testing before going on line for use. According to Mayor Barth, the iron content of Well #4 has been shown in tests to be much lower than that for the present well, so the strain on the treatment system will be lessened accordingly.

Testing the Water

The current regime of testing in the water supply includes daily tests on-site to ensure proper amount of pH adjustment. Once per week there is an on-site test of a water sample that has passed completely thorough treatment to determine the completeness of iron removal. Monthly tests are run on samples from a user's tap. (The kitchen in the Borough Hall is used.) This testing is done to detect the presence of any bacteriological impurities and to check the mineral content. Once each year testing is done to monitor the presence of heavy metals. The monthly and yearly tests

must be done in a state certified laboratory and results are reported monthly to the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection. Roosevelt Borough employs Princeton Testing Laboratory for these required tests.

Other tests could be run if a special need arose, e.g., according to Tom Karpick, if a nearby municipality experienced an unusual impurity in its water supply. An individual citizen could request testing of water if something indicated its necessity. Councilman Bill Counterman recalled a case several years ago in which homes experienced a strange odor to water and testing led to detection of accumulated algae in the storage tank. A post-chlorinator was subsequently included in the water treatment system to prevent growth of algae. Counterman also pointed out that individuals have recourse to the County Board of Health to which the borough contributes monetary support.

The Infiltration Question

As to the issue of whether any matter infiltrates the water supply piping system

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Watershed

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 through cracks, two members of the Public Works Committee, Bill Counterman and Aaron Datz, held that this is unlikely. Datz explained that water in the water main is under pressure from the gravity pull on the water in the storage tank. The pipes through which water flows in town do not necessarily flow downhill as in the case of sewer pipes but follow the contour of the land, so this pressure is vital in delivering water to outlets in each home. Seepage of water would be outward through any crack and would probably cause standing water very quickly as in the case of a water main break. If any microscopic material--bacteria--had contaminated any part of the water supply system through seepage, it is assumed that a visible pattern of illness would have resulted in borough residents who used the water.

This overwhelming unlikelihood of actual seepage into the water supply was upheld by a professional engineer familiar with water systems in a nearby township engineering office. He also noted that the experience of brown water is a familiar occurrence that comes about from any change in the flow through a water main such as a water main break or the release of water at a fire hydrant. Tubercles tend to form inside iron pipes which, he claimed, were not the result of the pipes themselves rusting but rather the buildup of nodules formed by precipitation of minerals

dissolved in water passing through the pipes, e.g. calcium or iron. Flow changes dislodge the particles and water users experience them as the distasteful brown particles -- not nice, but not unhealthy.

Unanswered Questions

Exploring our water system raises questions for this ex-earth science teacher: Why is the pH of water in the aquifer low? What is the fate of the Raritan Aquifer whose water level has fallen in recent years? But there are also questions for anyone interested in public policy in this town as well as in the broader region: What is the best system for maintaining the updated treatment plant? What steps should follow to upgrade the sewer system which is subject to cracks and other difficulties? Will changes in the aquifer affect our ability to draw out the water we need? And finally, and perhaps most significantly, is Roosevelt a likely victim of contamination from chemical waste disposal (as has occurred recently in Monroe Township, not much more than a stone's throw from Roosevelt)?

A Challenge to our Leaders

The borough has planned carefully and taken costly steps to make its water supply safe and satisfactory. Persons involved express hope that we have moved beyond the brown water syndrome. The policy questions above demand consideration and action by those empowered to preserve our water system so to ensure that we play a responsible part in water use in this region.

Former food store taken over by the bank

By Peter Berlinrut

The owners of the building which houses the Post Office and the former food store, have declared bankruptcy and the bank that holds the mortgage is in process of taking title to the property. And therewith ends a story of several chapters which tells of sorry misadventure which had the town as leading victim. The boarded up windows tell it eloquently enough. Chapter one tells of a building that was acquired with the hope of a large profit, there being no evidence that the owners had serious intention of operating it as the food store it was. Nor did it make much difference to them that the community needed such a utility.

It had been a profitable store as long as our townsman Sol Berg owned and operated it. It remained a profitable business even after he was no longer owner but only manager. However after Sol Berg retired the owners succumbed to a policy of indifference in which they brought in inexperienced and unqualified persons to operate the store in whatever way they could. Inevitably the business deteriorated. Trade fell off, stock was depleted and never replaced, appearance and maintenance were allowed to fail and the store was closed.

There are signs that it wasn't mere indifference. One of the owners claimed later that the help they hired after Sol

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Former food store

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Berg's departure had misappropriated store revenue in such large amounts that they had no alternative but to close the doors. The claim is not plausible. The fact is that food stores operated by chains, are able to survive and show profit with hired help operating cash registers. It is also a fact that long before the doors were shut, the owners were not replacing stock. It would indicate they intended to close all along. A going business was callously allowed to die with no thought of the grave inconvenience to the community it served.

A second chapter ensued with the store closed and the town upset but hoping for an early reopening by a purchaser able to recognize the potentialities of the situation. That never happened. It is reliably reported that a number of offers were made for the property but they were never large enough to suit the owners. The market was still booming and they were holding out for a maximum killing. What had they to lose? Rental income from the Post Office was enough

to pay whatever expenses were involved in holding it. Maintenance was held down to a barest minimum. There is evidence the owners were well versed in all the ways of squeezing fiscal advantage out of owning real estate. Their concern for the acute need of the town for a food store was nil.

In the third chapter, the market for real estate slumped badly and offers were no longer being made. The premises went into accelerated deterioration. Strong winds

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broke out two windows. Despite several notices and requests that windows be replaced, the owners did nothing. I hauled them into court for violating the provisions of the state housing code which stipulates the proper maintenance of windows. Their attorney responded with a claim that the word building did not refer to commercial buildings, only to private dwellings. In my reading of the code, the wording in no way restricted the word building to private dwellings. The magistrate, an able and helpful man, seemed to think the interpretation favored their claim. The windows were never replaced or repaired. Other neglect deepened. The roof leaked and flooded the Post Office. Fascia trim cracked and general unkemptness took over.

We reach the last chapter. The town passed an ordinance of property maintenance which would hold the owners of all buildings responsible for proper upkeep. With added windows broken we served the owners with a series of court summonses which presumably would have nailed them to their responsibility. We were then notified they had gone into bankruptcy and the bank was taking over. And that is where the situation stands at the moment.

There may be hope for the town in the oncoming chapter. The bank holding the mortgage does not go in for ownership and management of real estate. It plans to put the property up for sale. Any likely purchaser would acquire it with the intention of operating a business in it, which means presumably decent maintenance for the one building that is more in the public eye than any other in town.

Several residents have talked of the desirability of the town acquiring the building, using part for a permanent gallery and renting the rest to make it fiscally viable. Civic ownership might ensnare us in legal complications but individual residents combining modest investments in a down payment and then obtaining returns from rental revenues, might be a feasible solution. In any event, the thorn in the town's side that the rundown store has been these many months may well be on the road to remedy. Praise patience and sing hallelujah! Incidentally, if you have any helpful ideas on the subject, do not delay getting them to an ear of one of the town fathers.

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Council awards contracts for sewer and water engineers and cable television company

By Carol Watchler

At its regular meeting, January 13, council discussion and interest of members of the public centered on the awarding of a contract for Sewer and Water Licensed Engineers. The firm of Chmeil and Kowalski sought to continue providing the service of licensed water and sewer engineers to the borough at \$800 per month with water quality testing provided by Princeton Testing Laboratories at a cost of \$86 per month. A second proposal combining these services and adding the provision of a part time operator (two half days per week and two weeks during the year) for the water and sewer facilities has been presented by Eric Neimath of Environmental Associates at \$750 per month.

Councilmen Lou Esakoff and Les Weiner felt the latter proposal offered the borough substantial monetary savings while giving the additional benefit of a part time plant operator to provide time off for the regular operator. Councilman Weiner reported that the company does have a New Jersey Water Laboratory Certificate to qualify them for testing the water and reporting to the state.

At the agenda meeting Councilwoman Terry had argued that the choice depended on the aim -- "where do we want to go with this?" She asked if Roosevelt wanted to develop its own licensed operator.

Councilman Counterman expressed concern in moving from a known company who worked well with us to a new company where there was no guarantee of the quality of the personnel actually assigned to Roosevelt. He also felt that the specifics of the proposal were not stated clearly enough in writing.

Weiner moved that the decision be postponed until the council had an additional opportunity to question the representation of Environmental Associates. When Norman Nahmias, the one council member who had not met with Environmental Associates previously, gave his support to that motion, it passed and a meeting date of January 20, 8:00 p.m. was set.

The council voted unanimously for final reading of the ordinance enabling Futurevision Cable Enterprises, Inc. Storer Cable Communications to install cable television in Roosevelt. The cable company had written to the borough accepting the terms of the ordinance.

A contract was also awarded to IDS of Clarksburg to continue garbage pickup services.

In a report from the Recreation Committee, Jan Terry described the celebration slated for the evening of January 30, the 100th birthday of Franklin D. Roosevelt. There will be a short outdoor ceremony followed by a community gathering with music and refreshments inside the school. Curtis Roosevelt, grandson of

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FDR, will be the featured speaker.

A proposal to Freehold Borough for the purchase of their used fire truck passed unanimously. This 1960 truck, sorely needed to replace the one in present use, will cost \$14,000.

Resolutions to participate in county programs included the Gypsy Moth program and the Monmouth County Housing Improvement program. The council recommendation passed at the December meeting regarding the use of Dipel rather than Sevin by the county has not been forwarded to the County Board of Freeholders by the mayor.

Borough residents are reminded to purchase dog licenses for 1982 by Jan. 31. The cost of renewing a license increases by one dollar per month after this time.

At the re-organization meeting of the Roosevelt Borough Council on Monday, January 4, Norman Nahmias and Bill Counterman took the oath of office as new and returning council members respectively. Bill Counterman was unanimously voted as new council president by the four council members present, Counterman, Nahmias, Lou Esakoff and Jan Terry.

Appointments by the council and establishment of borough and council procedures for 1982 brought no changes from the end of 1981 and were voted unanimously in almost all cases. A dissenting vote came from councilman Esakoff on the question of the appointment of Donald Lomurro as Borough Council Attorney and for the reappointment of a special police officer.

A number of changes have been made in committee appointments by Mayor Leon Barth. Incoming council member Norman Nahmias was named to chair the Administrative Committee together with council members Counterman and Terry. Further committee appointments include: Public Works Committee -- Aaron Datz, chair, with Counterman and Esakoff; Public Safety -- Counterman, chair, with Nahmias and Datz; Public Property -- Esakoff, chair, with Terry and Weiner; Recreation -- Terry, chair, with Nahmias and Weiner; Library -- Weiner, chair, with Esakoff and Datz; Cemetery -- Nahmias, chair, with Terry and Esakoff.

The mayoral appointments to the planning board include Mel Friedman as a class 4 member for four years and Peter Berlinrut as a class 2 member for one year.

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Cemetery Road subdivision approved

By Bob Clark

After several months of consideration, the Planning Board voted 5 to 0 (Aaron Datz and Lynn Frank absent) to grant Rainbow Properties final approval for a six-lot subdivision on an 18-acre tract east of North Valley Road bordering the northern side of Cemetery Road. Approval was conditioned upon posting of a performance bond for improvements to Cemetery Road, payment of fees in accordance with a new ordinance and Board Attorney approval of an agreement between Rainbow and an adjoining property owner allowing roadway improvements and drainage.

Each lot contains at least 2½ acres as required by zoning amendments affecting approximately 40 acres in the area. Rainbow Properties partners, Fuller Brooks and Louis Caiola, have said that they intend to sell the lots, rather than construct any houses themselves.

The main business of the meeting concluded, board member Ralph Seligman reminded Building Inspector and board member Peter Berlinrut that the illuminated sign in the parking lot of the Roosevelt Deli Liquor Store should have received planning board site review prior to installation. Berlinrut replied that the owners had assured him that the sign would be temporary during the initial promotion of the recently-opened liquor store. The board decided to inform the owners that the temporary sign could be used until the next planning board meeting.

During the public portion of the meeting, Tax Assessor Michael Ticktin said the board should consider whether there is an economically feasible use for the vacant building adjoining the Post Office. Mayor Leon Barth, a planning board member, noted that the corporation which owned the property is now "defunct." He stated that a bank plans to sell the premises. Barth said that the planning board should, in its advisory role, consider whether the community should buy the property for some civic purpose. He added that at least one other prospective purchaser is interested in the property.

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Eldon Laue becoming Roosevelt institution

By David Herrstrom

Small as it is, Roosevelt boasts at least one Great American Institution -- the local gas station. Not as old as schools and volunteer fire departments, a rather recent invention, in fact, but it's as close to the hearts of most Americans as the great god Auto. Admittedly, the gods come in smaller sizes these days and seem to favor Japan and Germany as birth places, but the American gas station still flourishes. You know times have changed when you're embarrassed at your father-in-law's new car the size of an oil truck, but even you have to stop at the gas station to fill your Volkswagen.

I don't see many kandy-colored-tangerine-flaked-streamed-line roadsters roaring into the stations and drawing SRO crowds of goggle-eyed adolescents anymore, maybe because this isn't California, but the pumps are still with us. Auto worship may have declined; the institution goes on forever. Is it because you can get high on gasoline fumes? Maybe Wolf's Head oil musk contributes to comraderie? More likely, the gas station is simply a place where almost everyone must go. It collects news like a Maserati draws stares.

On the lot of the Roosevelt Auto Center you'll see more Mustangs than Maseratis, along with an assortment of trucks, buses, and cars in various stages of repair. Makes you feel at home. Who

isn't a little uneasy at an empty lot, as if you'd been caught in a time warp, all the cars finished and driven off. In the office, between the Interstate batteries stacked like cinder blocks and the Pepsi cases, Eldon G. Laue, the embossed metal placard announces, sits at his desk for a seven-minute lunch. He started at seven, and you'll see the lights still burning if you drive by at 11:00. He takes a rare Sunday afternoon off.

Seven minutes is all you have for lunch if, as he's done in the year since moving in, you're going to wire new lights, add a parts room, mount I-beams, and rebuild a wall. All this in addition to fixing cars and trucks full-time and being interrupted a million times by the summons to the gas pumps. A new bay and office are planned. Eldon figures it will take another year to get organized.

He ought to make it. Eldon G. Laue is a big man, used to juggling truck transmissions and the Amoco Oil Company. But contrary to what most people think about oil companies, this isn't a case of David slinging stones at a Goliath corporation. The oil company is easier to handle than the transmissions. Eldon has a five year contract with Amoco. In exchange for selling only Amoco gas, the company maintains through their distributor, Trenton Oil Co., the compressor, pumps, underground tanks, and sign. Many companies have stopped doing

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Eldon Laue

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this. Once in a while an Amoco agent comes out, but only to offer some helpful business advice. Delivery is a problem at times, but not the company's fault. Truckers don't like to come out to the sticks, especially when they have to leave before sunrise to get to Roosevelt before the customers. By law, they can't load the underground tanks while anyone pumps gas, and Eldon doesn't cheerfully shut down the station.

Every three weeks he sells a tanker load of gasoline -- 8000 gallons. That sounds like a lot, but some stations sell 120,000 in the same time. Though the heart of business is repairing cars, not pumping gas, the tanker's arrival gets top priority. It means \$11,000 cash on the barrel-head. But Amoco honors his customer credit card purchases on the spot, rather than returning a check in the mail as most companies do. So credit card receipts are instant cash, taken right off the top of the gasoline bill. It's a good thing, because you can't order half a tanker load. The company also installed a vapor recovery system that condenses gasoline fumes and shunts the resulting liquid back into the tank. Eldon no longer loses 100 gallons or so just in escaped vapor. As he says, "whenever you smell it, that's some money."

Stuck with a limited population, Eldon has to watch costs. But business is in-

creasing. He wasn't sure what to expect from Roosevelt after having a shop in Trenton for a number of years. Now he's convinced that it's much better in a small town. There's "more trust." He admits to some trouble once in a while collecting payment. It happens everywhere. Eventually he gets his money, but it "always leaves a wound." Perhaps that's one of the liabilities of a small town, but he can't think of any others.

The radiator hoses and fan belts festooning the walls around his mechanic's bay seem to celebrate his big plans for the station and his enthusiasm for Roosevelt. But he likes things plain. These aren't decorations; they're inventory. His mechanic, Chris Martin, kids him about not even liking mustard on his hot dogs. Plain dog, plain bun. That may be un-American, but I have a feeling Eldon's bound to become an institution in Roosevelt.

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School Board approves budget

By Arlene Rashkin

The 1982-83 school year budget was approved at this month's board meeting held on January 11. The \$661,608 budget was finalized by a 5 to 1 margin with board member Al Hepner casting the dissenting vote. Board members Orlando, Shahn and Esakoff were not present for the meeting.

Because the budget is \$61,762 over the current state CAP limit, Finance Committee chairperson Bruce Lakin moved that a CAP waiver for that amount be requested. Board approval for the waiver was unanimous. This is the second year that the board has requested a CAP waiver from the state. Mr. Lakin said that he felt the budget was "a conservative one." Board president David Zaleski said that he anticipated a decrease in the school tax levy as a result of the 1982-83 budget. He added that increases in the budget reflected increases in items such as insurance, utilities and tuition over which the board has little control. "The tuition to Hightstown High School will increase by 71% for the next fiscal year," Mr. Zaleski pointed out. "We also anticipate a 19% increase in heating costs."

In an attempt to do something about rising utility bills, board member David Herrstrom moved that a plan to renovate the building to increase energy efficiency

be adopted. The plan includes replacing existing windows and installing ceiling insulation. The board voted to approve the transfer of funds from this year's free balance to implement those renovations.

Other board business included the acceptance of Title IV B funds and the approval of the annual Education plan. Intramural athletics was extended for 15 weeks and a policy on student grievances was approved. Also approved was the use of the building on January 30 as part of the F.D.R. celebration.

The public will have a chance to voice their feelings about the budget and the board in April when the annual school board elections are held. There are four vacancies to be filled and any resident interested in running must file a petition with the school by February 25. Petitions and information are available by contacting Diane DeBree, the school board secretary.

**The Roosevelt Bulletin
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Roosevelt Community and School CalendarJanuary 1982

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 25 | Monday, 7:00 p.m. | First Aid CPR - Borough Hall |
| 26 | Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. | First Aid meeting - Borough Hall |
| 28 | Thursday, 8:00 p.m. | Borough Bulletin meeting -
David Herrstrom's home |

February 1982

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|----|----------------------|---|
| 4 | Thursday, 7:30 p.m. | Fire Company meeting - Borough
Hall |
| 8 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Council Agenda meeting - Borough
Hall |
| 9 | Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. | Early closing Roosevelt Public
School |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Board of Ed meeting - R.P.S. |
| 10 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Council meeting - Borough Hall |
| 12 | Friday | School closed - Lincoln's
birthday |
| 14 | Sunday | Valentine's Day |
| 15 | Monday | School closed - Washington's
birthday observed |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Board meeting - Cong. Anshe
Roosevelt |
| 16 | Tuesday | Eleanor Roosevelt chapter of
NOW meeting - for location
and information call Carol
Watchler 443-6540 |
| 17 | Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. | First Aid - Borough Hall |
| 18 | Thursday, 7-11 p.m. | Boy Scouts - Borough Hall |
| 21 | Sunday, 11:00 a.m. | Park Commission |
| 23 | Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. | Early closing - Roosevelt Public
School |
| | 8:00 p.m. | First Aid meeting - Borough Hall |

What is the relation of education to school?

By Freda Hepner

Sometimes when I think about education I fall into my old reflex trap of thinking it is a word synonymous with school. I really know better. Education is synonymous with learning and we all know that we learn in many places and in many ways. In fact, some people seem to believe that nothing one learns in school has much value in the real world. Most people will grant the need for the 3 Rs (or Basics, as they're called now). Maybe those who object are right; maybe schools are an unreal world. I think they were meant to prepare children for adulthood. They are meant to provide a body of knowledge which can be translated into a kind of security blanket in the adult world, something to fall back on.

It's that so-called "body of knowledge" that is not clear to me. I doubt that adults can foresee what the world these children will grow up to will be like. We do know some things. We know that it will be a world that relies even more heavily on a complex technology to provide even basic needs like food, clothing and warmth. The decisions that will have to be made will be complicated by the increasing numbers of technical experts who use jargon only they can understand. Certainly that future world will require the average person to

understand a lot more than just the rote rules of the 3 Rs.

It seems to me that what will be most valuable will be the ability to make connections. One will need to assess one technician's expertise not only in relation to other experts' statements, but also in relation to common sense, personal observation and an appreciation of how the present state of affairs came to be.

Given the unknown premise of the future world, what body of knowledge can we possibly provide children that will adequately prepare them for adulthood? That's the most important question for adults to consider about schools. What can we teach that will ready the children for the adult world (real world)?

Obviously to help people make connections we must present learning as a connected experience. It is easy to go off that simple track when we specialize, when we make everything a separate isolated subject. For instance, reading and writing are clearly connected learning tools but if we think for a moment - we know that they are also connected to history which includes the development of language, arts, scientific discovery and mathematics. All of these areas are connected as well. I don't think anybody really learns in straight separate parallel lines. I think we learn in

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education

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ever widening uneven interweaving circles. We learn in spurts and from everything we do (sometimes even when we go to school).

Most importantly if learning is inter-connected to all experience - it is always part of the real world. It provides a basis for critical thinking; for being able to judge between gobbledygook jargon and real expertise. It is vital for making intelligent decisions personally, socially and politically.

Soon, we will again be asked to vote for a school budget. Some years that's the only time we think about what school is about. Let's discuss learning in more than fiscal terms. Let's connect the dollars we spend to the learning our children are experiencing. What is most important for our children to learn? What can school do about it (if anything)? Write to the Bulletin. I would like to hear your ideas.

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Our dear friend Masha Bressler died last month and is now at rest in our cemetery. Many will recall her generosity and cooperation for the good of the town during the many years she lived in Roosevelt. She loved this town dearly, but was forced to leave because of poor health and the need to be near her children. We all mourn our loss.

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PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Educational programs for the gifted

One of the inservice topics being studied by the RPS staff this year is generally referred to as educational programs for gifted and talented students. By 1978 the New Jersey Administrative Code mandated that school districts provide educational opportunities for exceptionally gifted and talented students. According to the State of New Jersey, "Gifted and talented pupils are those capable of high performance and require differentiated educational programs and facilities beyond those normally provided in order to fully develop their gifts and talents so as to lead more satisfying lives and enhance the quality of life in their community."

The guidelines set forth by the state recommend that programs for gifted and talented students include the following steps:

1. The assessment of needs and goals in the district's program.
2. A planned procedure for the identification of students.
3. A differentiated educational plan and curricula.
4. Appropriate educational facilities and supplies.
5. Qualified teachers.
6. Planned procedures for evaluation.
7. Timelines for developing these steps.

Each school district is then asked to set up its own program. The amount of writing about this area of education is formidable! Questions emerge such as, "What or how much

talent constitutes giftedness?" "Isn't every child gifted?" "Why spend extra money on these students, they'll get along anyway?" "What is the best way to educate these students?"

Some reading on this topic set forth by the U.S. Office of Gifted and Talents and the N.J. Department of Education say that between 3-5% of all students in a district are gifted. For RPS, that would mean that only about five or six students, grades K-8 are in this category. Much of the literature goes on to spell out areas of giftedness. Such a list from the New Jersey Department of Education suggests these areas:

1. General Intellectual Ability: exceptional ability in verbal and non-verbal reasoning, often characterized by advanced vocabulary and abstract reasoning, capable of achieving in all subject areas.
2. Specific Intellectual or Academic Ability: exceptionally high achievement in a specific academic subject.
3. Creative or Productive Thinking Ability: ability to develop original and or unusual ideas and solutions to problems.
4. Psychosocial Ability: leadership or managerial ability, relates well with peers, adults, accepts and carries out responsibility.
5. Visual or Performing Arts Ability: art, music, drama, dance.
6. Psychomotor Ability: exceptional ability in

(Cont'd. on next page)

programs for the gifted

(Cont'd. from previous page)

physical strength, endurance, balance, agility.

The Education Committee of the Roosevelt Board of Education is working together with teachers on this task. Our plan is to define for our own district what we mean by gifted and talented students, develop a procedure for identifying students, set up programs as needed, and evaluate the process. The process sounds simple enough, but for some reason, this entire area of education tends to be a touchy subject. Some people have the opinion that, "all men are created equal," and that it is somewhat un-American to label some more equal than others. Another stumbling block is the difficulty in identifying gifted students. Sometimes the characteristics are difficult to interpret. Other people fear the development of an elite group within the public school system.

However difficult it is to deal with these feelings and opinions, the initial meetings have been encouraging. One theme that has emerged has been

a restatement of our commitment to develop each and every child's potential to the fullest, whether this student is of high or low ability. Another positive element has been for teachers to re-evaluate their instructional methods. Where possible, teachers must learn to present materials to students on a range of ability levels within the classroom. Also, our study has heightened the awareness of academic elitism or lack of professional ability to deal with these students as a price not many of us are willing to pay.

--Beverly Hetrick



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Bus. Card Size - \$ 3.00/mo.
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Culinary Delights***Soups to warm the heart and bones***

By Barbara Halpern

On a cold winter night nothing warms your insides more than a hearty bowl of soup. Stock serves as a foundation for most soups so it is important to make it from scratch instead of using a canned broth. The following stock recipe calls for beef soup bones which produce rich hearty soups. For vegetables and subtle cream soups substitute one small chicken for the beef soup bones.

I am also presenting two soup recipes which smell good, taste good and are uncomplicated to prepare.

Basic Soup Stock

2 lbs. soup marrow bones or 1 small chicken
 1 large onion stuck with 1 clove
 1 fat clove of garlic
 1 small bay leaf
 4 sprigs parsley
 2 carrots, coarsely chopped
 2 stalks celery
 3 quarts cold water

Put soup bones in a baking pan. Sprinkle with oil and brown them in oven; then put bones in a large saucepan with cold water and bring to a slow boil. Simmer for 1 hour (skim off any scum that may be on the top) add the remaining ingredients and simmer gently for 1 hour longer. Strain stock through a sieve, cool, remove the fat and stock is ready to use or store in the refrigerator for later use.

Yield: 2 qts. chicken or beef stock

French Onion Soup

Serves 4-6

6 medium sized onions, thinly sliced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ stick butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. sugar
 6 cups beef stock
 4 Tablespoons Cognac
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Dijon mustard
 salt and freshly ground pepper
 Grated Gruyere or Swiss cheese
 4-6 slices French bread

Heat butter in large saucepan with sugar. Add onion rings and saute very gently over a low heat until golden. Add beef stock, stir and bring to a boil. Then lower heat, cover the pan and simmer for 1 hour.

Meanwhile, toast bread on one side under broiler. Butter untoasted side, return to broiler and toast lightly.

Just before serving, stir in Cognac and mustard; adjust seasonings, pour into individual heat proof serving bowls each one containing buttered toast heaped with grated cheese. Bake in preheated oven (450° F) until cheese is bubbly and golden brown.

Cream of Potato Soup

Serves 6

- 1 lb. peeled and diced potatoes (about 3 cups)
 3 cups thinly sliced leeks or yellow onions
 2 quarts chicken stock
 salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup whipping cream
 2 Tb. minced chives or parsley (optional)

Simmer the potatoes, leeks and stock together in a 4 qt. saucepan for 45 minutes until the vegetables are tender. Season with salt.

Puree the vegetables in a blender or mash with a fork and return to saucepan. Stir in cream just before serving and garnish with herbs.

Bids opened in Senior Citizen housing project

The senior citizens housing project has been approved to go to bid by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), which has set aside over one million dollars for the project. The Senior Citizens Housing Corporation will receive bids for construction on February 19. Construction is planned to begin in early spring.

A detailed account of this will appear in our next issue.

SENIOR NEWS

By Helga Wisowaty

Our annual holiday dinner was held at the "Over-the-Bridge-Inn" on December 27. It was a very enjoyable time for the people attending -- due largely to the planning of our president, Esther Pogrebin.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson of Freehold honored us with their presence. (They are the parents of Mrs. Edelstein of Homestead Lane.) Mr. Johnson played the guitar and sang. We all appreciated his contribution to our celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Chasan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on New Year's Eve. A delicious cake was served in their honor.

There will be no meeting in January because many members will be away.

The February meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Borough Hall on the first Wednesday of the month.

Our wishes for a very Happy New Year to all.

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Dollar a year school business administrator

Betty Furness did it for Mayor John Lindsay in NYC. Bess Meyerson did it for Mayor Ed Koch. Shirley Temple Black did it for the USA at the UN. Now, Jose Pacis is going to do it for the Roosevelt Board of Education. These folks are dollar-a-year persons! They are a rare breed, but they do exist! Thanks to Beverly Hetrick (School Administrator) who knows that some people want experience, we will be graced with Jose's presence and expertise.

Jose lives in Milltown, N.J. and is preparing his dissertation for his Ed.D. He has already earned a B.A. in Philosophy, a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a B.S. in Education and an M.A.T. degree in Chemistry.

Jose says that "I'm interested in getting my feet wet," while he pursues his ambition to become a school business administrator. Well, Jose, the Roosevelt Board of Education and Beverly Hetrick have an ocean of work.

Our new Assistant Administrator Without Portfolio will assist our Finance Committee with new complex formulae required by the State. With direction from the Policy Committee, he will help formulate new policies using accurate language, i.e. legally correct, which future boards will spend endless hours interpreting. Of course, when we ask Beverly if she has anything for Jose to do, she smiles!

(Cont'd. on next page)

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(Cont'd. from previous page)

We hope his stay with us will prove to be a worthwhile experience for Jose as we know it will be for us. Ask Lindsay, Koch and Nixon, and they'll tell you that dollar-a-year wo(men) are worth a million! Welcome Jose!

Albert Hepner for
the Board of Education

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Letter to the Bulletin**Nuclear annihilation, the number one fear**

Isn't it true that every time there is a major world crisis, as in Poland or the Middle East, a flash of fear crosses the mind? The constant danger of nuclear holocaust hangs like a pall over everyone, everywhere. That is why we must be successful in demanding an immediate freeze on all nuclear armaments by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. We must call a stop, in order to turn the process around. Nuclear arms must be totally abolished before we can have real security.

A noted pacifist, David McReynolds, recently traveled in Europe and Japan. He reports in "Peace Action," the newspaper of the Princeton Fellowship of Reconciliation, that he met "positive hostility to the freeze campaign" because as now being promoted, it would leave "all U.S. and Soviet weapons in place in Europe and Asia." People in other countries are increasingly angry, he writes, over the conviction Americans share with the Soviets that "disarmament is something to be left to the two great Powers." Nuclear destruction will hardly be limited to these two countries. They feel frozen out of the disarmament process that affects them so directly.

So it must be said, over and over again, that the mutual freeze on nuclear arms can only be a first step toward sharp reduction leading to complete elimination! George Kennan, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia calls for an immediate 50% cutback on both sides.


This issue is receiving wider and wider notice by Catholic leaders of late. Pope John Paul II declared in December, 1981, that "the only hope for humanity is prevention of any form of nuclear war." Archbishop Roach of Minneapolis, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, called the nuclear arms race "the most Dangerous moral issue in the public order today." (N.Y. Times, Dec. 15, 1981) With such lofty conservative opinions being voiced, surely we ordinary people can take heart and insist tirelessly that the super powers in Geneva go beyond the paltry negotiations on deployment and begin the process of real reduction.

Above all, what we crave, for ourselves and for our children, is release from the ever present fear of nuclear annihilation which we feel every time we pick up a newspaper.

What do the readers of the Borough Bulletin think about this issue? What can you suggest that we do, as individuals and as a community?

Your Neighbor,
Adeline Weiner

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Letter to the Bulletin

Reporter responds

To the Editor(s),

In response to Ms. Hetrick's letter published in last month's Borough Bulletin I would like to borrow an anecdote from Freeman Dyson which, without belaboring the details seems to hit the point.

The physicist Leo Szilard once announced to his friend that he was thinking of keeping a diary. "I don't intend to publish it; I am merely going to record the facts for the information of God." "Don't you think God

knows the facts?" asked his friend. "Yes," said Szilard. "He knows the facts, but he does not know this version..."

--Arlene Rashkin

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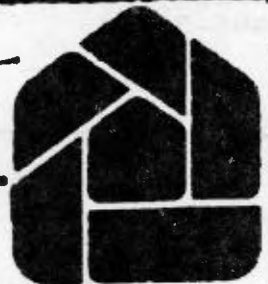
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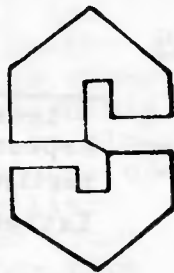
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Roosevelt New Jersey presents a celebration in honor of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Centennial, Saturday, Jan. 30, 1982, 7:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Public School.



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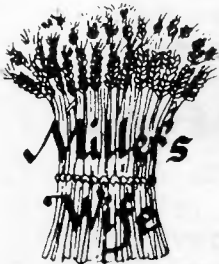
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BULLETIN

Published by Roosevelt P.T.A.

EXTRA

ROOSEVELT, N.J.

JANUARY 1982

Roosevelt N.J. Honors F.D.R

By Freda Hiepner and
Josef G. Solomon

The Jersey Homesteads began as a dream for Benjamin Brown. The town was settled by idealistic city people. The dream would never have become a reality, however, without President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's innovative programs to relieve the Great Depression that had seized the entire country. The people acknowledged this special relationship to Franklin Roosevelt when they renamed the town Roosevelt. To this day, we are still the only community in the United States that has a public memorial to FDR--the six-foot bronze head designed by Jonathan Shahn. The head was cast in Italy by Nicci Brothers, the oldest bronze foundry in the world.

Therefore, while the nation prepares to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of President Roosevelt's birth, we in Roosevelt, NJ, will have our distinct observances. With the support of our Mayor and Council, Bernarda Shahn has been coordinating plans for the occasion. On Saturday, January 30 (Roosevelt's actual birthday), everyone is invited to gather at the Roosevelt Memorial, at 7:30 pm, for a floral tribute and a brief ceremony, which will be followed by a program at the school.

Curtis Roosevelt, grandson of the late President, will come to Roosevelt, NJ, to address the gathering. His address will be followed by a piano concert by Anita Cervantes, and a performance by Laurie Altman and David Brahinsky. Refreshments will be served.

A citizen's committee has been planning the celebration. Everyone is invited to offer suggestions and help. Jan Terry (609-448-6741) will welcome all volunteers. The committee hopes that this occasion will provide an opportunity for people to see their old friends and to meet new friends.

A second event will take place during the week of June 2, which is the twentieth anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Roosevelt, NJ, to dedicate the Roosevelt Memorial here. An extensive outdoor festival is being planned, which will display the talents of many Rooseveltians. Plans include an art show, a crafts show, several musical events (classical and folk), poetry readings, a children's play, and perhaps an original adult dramatic presentation. Everyone who would like to contribute to this very special occasion is urged to call Jan Terry at the above number.

BOROUGH BULLETIN Extra

NBC TO AIR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

NBC will present a program on Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which includes a segment on Roosevelt, NJ, on Sunday, January 24th, at 10 pm. A cable television program will also be aired at a later date which has yet to be announced.

THE NATION REMEMBERS FDR

By Andrea Lakin

A number of major events will take place nationally for the FDR centennial. Included in the Smithsonian's commemorative program are an exhibit at the National Museum of American History of Roosevelt memorabilia, an exhibit of paintings, and other graphic media from the New Deal Public Works Project. Two exhibitions are planned for the National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery highlighting FDR's life. The Office of Folklife Programs is presenting a birthday concert and square dance on Jan. 29th and 30th, 1982. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden is planning an exhibition of the best works of four or five eminent living artists who got their start under the WPA Federal Arts Project. In addition, at least three books are to be published on the Centennial. An FDR Centennial stamp will be issued on Jan. 30, 1982.

Mr. Peter Kovner, Chairman of the National Centennial, mentioned to Bernarda Shahn that Congress appropriated 5 million dollars for the Herbert Hoover centennial but the FDR birthday committee has only received \$200,000 (despite inflation). Nevertheless, he went on to say, the donated time and talents of so many different people make it possible to have a wonderful celebration. Among the sponsors on his letterhead are, for example, Senator Ted Kennedy of Mass., Sen. Claude Pepper of Fla., Playwrite Arthur Miller, poet Archibald Macleish, Author John Kenneth Galbraith, Sen. Adlai Stevenson III, and Curtis Roosevelt who will be speaking at the FDR memorial in town on Jan. 30th.



Many thanks to Jeanette Koffler
for typing the EXTRA.

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