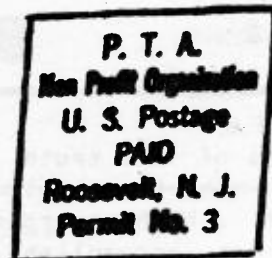


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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



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ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

MAY 1987

Mayoral Candidates Speak

By Bernard Leefer

"An engineer can do for tuppence what any damn fool can do for ten pounds." This British truism is perfectly illustrated by the conduct of our current Mayor and Council, Mayoral candidate Moser included.

They approved the expenditure of enormous sums of money for an extravagant sewer system improvement while refusing to consider more economical means proposed by me and former Councilman Chasan.

Chasan, ex-water-sewer chairman, is our in-town expert on the plant operation. His expertise has never been tapped by the subsequent Chairman.

Recently, Chasan and I discovered the probable location of one of our major sewer line in-leaks. Repair of this small section would reduce the expenditure of a lot of money from the overall improvement. Chairman Moser refused to meet with us, call a Committee meeting, discuss it with the Borough engineer, or consider any option to economize.

An excellent, inexpensive alarm system, tendered by me as a gift, was rejected in favor of an equivalent very high cost, leased system. Moser was instrumental in this decision (See my letter to editor in this Bulletin issue.)

These are only two typical

By Ed Moser

The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ordered Roosevelt to update its sewer plant after years of our having neglected it. The only question is, are we going to make the \$2.5 to \$3.5 million dollars of repairs they want, or the half-million dollars that our Engineer has negotiated with them? Failure to act at all would result in heavy fines, and having to pay for the work anyway. This has been going on for years while Bernie Leefer was on the Public Utilities committee. NOT ONCE has he offered a constructive, complete, rational, acceptable solution. His interest in the issue did not start until he became a candidate for mayor, and he STILL HAS NOT PRESENTED AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN.

I became chair of the Public Utilities Committee in January, after most of the damage had been done, and have been left basically with the responsibility of looking for ways to finance the new project. I don't want to pay new taxes any more than you do. That's not one of the alternatives. It's really holding down the damage that's at issue.

Bonding is a reasonable way to do the job: there is nothing wrong with sharing the cost of improvements that may last upwards of fifty years with

Leefer

examples of the truth of my opening axiom. The frequently forgotten fact is that a highly trained and skilled person can accomplish more for less time and money than a layman, no matter how bright.

Engineering is inextricably tied to money. The means of the customer determines the level of refinement of the engineer's design and the effort he puts into it.

This relates to Roosevelt's dealings with its Borough Engineers. They are contractors. The somewhat special relationship is regulated by the State, but engineering firms are never-the-less profit making businesses with the fundamental objective of making money.

To control this, larger communities have their own staffs of engineers, lawyers, accountants, etc., on their own payrolls, to act as monitors of their contractors. We have no such staff, and the only one in town I know of who has the training, skill, will and time to perform this monitoring effectively, is me.

I offer this to you as Mayor. Those are the things I do well. With my credentials it would be naive of me to attempt to defend a thesis in Psychology or teach an English Literature Class.

Moser is unashamedly naive in relations with our contractors and with the Borough Engineer. His inexperience is now costing, and will continue, if unchecked, to cost us additional tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Conversely, he has distinguished himself by introducing time-and-money-consuming issues, unnecessary to the business of the Borough.

Refusing to accept legal advice offered by concerned Roosevelt lawyers, he has incurred large legal fees for the exact same advice from our Borough Attorney.

He will not seek or accept the talents of altruistic local technicians and professionals. Not knowing enough to ask questions or what questions to ask, he swallows, hook, line and sinker, anything our contractor sells him.

He has chosen to pick a useless

Moser

the people who will be using them at that time.

Perhaps the greatest threat ever to this community is the proposed Toxic Waste Incinerator (TWI). There is a very good chance it will be recommended for location within 6 or 8 miles of Roosevelt. On April 9, 1986, when we first heard of it, Council adopted Resolution 25/86 AGAINST location of the TWI nearby. I sponsored that resolution. Mister Leefer opposed it on grounds that some "experts" may tell us that it is safe. Which "experts" and how "safe" he didn't tell us, and still doesn't.

I have been in contact with environmental groups on the issue, and have urged the Council to give legal and financial support to the fight. As mayor, I will use my position to rally public opposition, and to appoint official liaison to the communities fighting the TWI.

In 1986, as chair of the Council's Public Property and Cemetery Committee, I got rid of an old, unsafe, and generally unused dump truck and earned the Borough some money. We got a new rug for the Community Room and the exercise class and nursery school and others who use it, in time for the 50th Anniversary celebration. I started the preparation of the cemetery grounds for new grass, and of updating Borough equipment. To help control our tax burden, I started capital reserve funds for a new truck and for a new Borough Hall furnace.

Since becoming chair of the Public Utilities committee, I have dealt effectively with emergencies, and I have responded to citizen complaints and questions courteously and promptly.

Other qualifications include my experience as a history professor, as a Supervisor of a Special Investigations Unit in the N.J. Department of Law & Public Safety, and as a Union leader.

Since its founding in 1981, I have been on the Executive Board of Local 1033, Communications Workers of America (CWA), which represents 6000 State workers. Every year I participate in the budgeting process and in the actual administration of this very large local. Our annual budget is about

Leifer

fight with the towns' food co-op, one of our most benevolent organizations.

He tinkered with the cemetery ordinance to which no one had objected, thereby incurring additional unnecessary legal fees before he was finally called off.

His frivolous use of his limited Council time, along with his prodigal spending of our tax dollars, has been his hallmark.

I have demonstrated my ability to actually save, or show how to save, large sums of money. One typical example, among others, was the gravelling of Eleanor Lane. Rejecting \$22,500 quoted by a favored contractor, I contracted, supervised and completed the job myself for \$1,650.

At my instigation, the semi annual hydrant flushing, for which we had been charged for the past years, is now being handled by a citizens' volunteer group.

I've shown my respect for, and ability to determine the will of the people, by conducting a survey via the Borough Bulletin, and serving as a rallying point. Then we effectively influenced the Governing Body to reverse itself on the restrictive historical ordinance it was planning to pass, in favor of a realistic one.

Our current difficulties are practically all of an engineering nature at this time. Moser has demonstrated that he can only handle them at great expense. As my opening maxim states, an fool can do that.

I can do better.

Moser

three times that of Roosevelt's municipal and school budgets together.

I certainly understand budgeting and administration. I know well the art of negotiating, looking for ways to mend differences, finding points of agreement. My relations with State agencies ranging from Motor Vehicles to State Police depend on my credibility, my tact, and my consistent advocacy. Finally I know how to squeeze the taxpayer's dollar so hard that the eagle grins.

Come to the Candidates' meeting on Monday, June 1 at the Borough Hall for the big debate. And vote for me. I'll really work at representing your interests.



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VIEWPOINT**R.F.S. Graduates, Part I I**

By Ginny Edwards Stout

"And someday you'll go to the big school too." A fresh generation of toddlers is scrambling over the stooped shoulders of the garment-workers statue in the school lobby, and gaping up at the Shahn mural. The parents of some of these future kindergartners remember doing exactly the same thing when they were tots.

In fact, some of these RPS grad/parents had parents or grandparents who could have been the prototype for the garment worker sculpture and could, as children, pick out the familiar faces of neighbors among the figures in the mural. Watching their own kids' antics, they have a pleasant sense of *deja vu*.

One mother spoke for many when she rejoiced that "my child has the chance to experience the camaraderie, that glorious feeling of belonging, that I remember so well". All the people I talked to hope that their offspring will get "at least" as good an education as they carried onto the school bus headed for Hightstown High.

But already there are indications of a paradise lost. The younger parents who moved back to town to raise their children here are seeing and hearing troublesome things. Older grads with school-age children who remained in town complain that "the kids can't express themselves clearly on paper"... "They no longer enter Hightstown High with a head start in math and foundations in a foreign language"... "There's no real music program"... "The school is overrun with adults but we don't seem to be turning out pupils who know how to study"... "Not enough is expected of the kids. Our teachers ranged from mediocre-minus to excellent, but what they asked of us was good." One desperate father, a recent returnee, asks "How can you NOT teach a class with only 11 kids in it?"

There are positive comments too. "The school has turned around and is headed in the right direction"... "The program from kindergarten through fourth grade couldn't be much better." Still, several once staunch supporters of the public school system, people sentimentally attached RPS, have enrolled their children in private schools or frankly admit that they would do so if they could afford to.

It isn't surprising that many of the younger grad/parents are running scared. The signs of negative change can't be ignored. They take their toddlers to the school playground and find it a-roll with empty soda cans, fluttering with litter, slimy with dank plastic wrappers, a mine-field of glass shards. They remember when it was different.

"We wouldn't have done that to our school. And we wouldn't have been allowed to get away with it if we did. Policing the grounds was practically part of the curriculum. We even cleaned out the creek periodically."

These anxious parents worry about values in general. Although most of them are in their late 20s or their 30s, some question the elaborate, extended eighth grade class trip and fund raising for the cause of pure pleasure. "I don't care if I sound like an old poop," says one mother. "We had a one-day class trip but the 13 kids in our class gave the school a piano as the class gift-- bought with money accumulated over the years from dues of a quarter a week per kid. The piano wasn't a Steinway grand, but we were very proud of it."

Another mother remembers "we were always doing things for the PTA, putting on shows, cooking demonstrations, you name it. The bond between home and school was very strong, very tight. A few kids fell through the crack but not many."

Several parents are worried about a cultural decline in the school. "Music played a larger role in the school and in our personal lives. Most of us played an instrument. And there was a town band which had adults and children playing together."... "School productions don't seem to demand much of the kids. I remember when our class performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in its entirety. The audience doubtless suffered but it was an enormous experience for us. Most of us can still recite our parts."

Another grad recalls a full performance of "The Mikado." "It was hard on the parents' ears and patience, I guess, but we've never forgotten it." Many parents mourned the loss of regular school assemblies. "They gave us a feeling of unity and solidarity, gave us practice in public speaking and performing and -- this was important -- attracted people into the school whether they had children or not."

Several mentioned the "inclusiveness" that characterized Roosevelt not too long ago. "Old and young not only worked together but party-ed together. I liked that. It made me feel comfortable with people of all ages. I hope to give my kids the same experience." There wasn't much tendency to congregate by profession, either, the old grads noted. "Human difference was enjoyed, on the whole,

rather than feared or distrusted. I hope we hold on to this, it was a nice thing."

Were RPS and Roosevelt childhoods really the golden oldies so many fondly recall? Probably not -- and certainly not for everybody. The famous conclusion "I'm not the person I used to be and never WAS" comes to mind.

Whatever you hear now, Roosevelt was never "Little New Hope," says one of the older graduates. "Whether parents worked in factories or studios, they worked hard, were generally serious and didn't have time for psychologizing. Nobody asked us whether we were happy at school or not; we just went. We were warmly welcomed into each other's homes-- there was no social stratification -- but parent-child relationships were a lot more formal than they are now. I never knew my friends' parents had first names. It was always Mr. or Mrs. But the feelings were good. The slight distancing of the generations was very reassuring in a way. Kids who were in school after the mid-fifties had a different sort of social experience, I suppose."

The parents interviewed agreed that parents who are relatively new in town can help their children get the most and best out of a Roosevelt childhood if they are aware of certain potential pitfalls. Here is a scattering of caveats.

One of the most frequently cited is the extraordinary social intimacy of the small class, an intimacy that can work in your child's favor or be a problem to him. When you think about it, a Roosevelt kindergartner may see the same 10 or 12 classmates before, during, after school and often on weekends for the next nine years. There is no escape from the image or nickname imposed in second grade, no place to rest from the reputation acquired in an off-moment in third.

Several RPS grad/parents reminded "So much depends on the class!" They said this over and over. If your child's personality and temperament blend in with her class, she'll probably have a wonderful time. If, for one reason or another, he doesn't

fit in with that group -- if by second grade it is obvious that it's odd man out -- you're going to have to make a big, long-term effort to expose him to different people and experiences out of town, and schedule extra time for family doings as well.

As one father put it, "kids need to know that other kids come in more than a dozen models."

If yours is a sensitive youngster on the quiet, thoughtful side, and you work part-time, you might consider having her or him eat lunch at home. Several old grads remember how much the brief "drop-out" provided by lunch at home meant to them. Even outgoing, gregarious kids recalled that the respite gave them better perspective on the morning's trials and triumphs, and reminded them that there was a larger world.

Watch the gender mix of the class. If it looks as if your son is going to be the only boy in the class for yet another year -- or your daughter the only girl in hers -- see what you can do to right the balance in school and out.

A number of grads advise parents to think twice before permitting your child to skip a grade. Again, the class she will be joining is a critical factor in the success of the experiment. A bright child skipped into a high achieving, friendly, accepting group is likely to flourish. The same child, forcibly inserted into a tightly knit clique whose members are all but laminated together, may suffer socially and emotionally. If the class is not particularly high-achieving, the youngster may not benefit much academically and be resented into the bargain.

Several old grads noted that one of a small school's greatest drawbacks is that a child may have the same teacher for years. If the pupil and teacher don't like each other -- and this can happen -- the effects of the uncomfortable situation can seep into many areas of development. A kid can get a distorted picture of himself, mirrored in that teacher's eyes, one father emphasized. "Even if the problem is all on the child's side,

it's 'real' whether it's real or not -- because he's locked into it." These experienced parents recommend that you not let a situation like this go on too long without talking it over with the teacher, the administrator and possibly a therapist if the youngster dreads going to certain class and eventually resists going to school at all.

The importance of keeping abreast of the school's academic expectations, policies and standing was stressed by most of the parents interviewed. Some suggested getting the PTA to invite eighth grade graduates to report back to the organization at the end of their freshman year at Hightstown and tell how things went, what subjects they did best in, the areas in which they were unprepared.

Most of the parents interviewed worried more about the education RPS offers than any other facet of Roosevelt life. Several pointed out that Roosevelt is the kind of setting which should foster academic

excellence.

"It's a safe town, quiet, rich in country pleasures but not at all isolated. The stimulating offerings of two universities -- Princeton and Rutgers -- are a half hour away. The bewitchments of two major cities -- New York and Philadelphia -- are just an hour off," said one mother. "I may sound like a travel agent's brochure, but it's true -- and it makes a difference. Roosevelt has never been a provincial, insular town -- physically or psychologically. The school is small, with fewer than 100 pupils in grades kindergarten through eighth, so naturally classes are small too. Roosevelt used to have a reputation for turning out good students. What happened?"

One of the older male grads put it more bluntly. "If we can't give children a first-class education here, then WHERE? More to the point, if we can't give a child a good education under such circumstances, WHY?"

COUNCIL REPORT

By Adeline Weiner

The major business of the Council meeting of May 13 consisted in the passage of several important ordinance amendments and the approval of a series of recommendations by Borough Engineer Birdsall. Apart from these actions, the meeting was marked by a series of accusations and debates initiated by Bernard Leefer against the Council and the Mayor.

Minority of One

To take the latter first, under Good and Welfare, Mr. Leefer read a statement describing himself as a minority of one who is being "railroaded out of office" and made a target of criticism by the rest of the Council members. He has been removed from the Water/Sewer Committee and has been refused entry to the sewer plant. Leefer charges that this can only mean that there is a concerted effort to discredit him as a mayoral candidate

for which there must be some underlying motive. He asked in his statement "What are they trying to hide? What's being covered up? They may try to stop me but I intend to find out what it is!"

Selden Answers

Councilmember Lee Selden as a member of the Water/Sewer Committee (Chair Moser was absent) reported that Mr. Leefer was removed from the committee because he consistently acted completely on his own, independent from the committee "at every moment"; that he would not work in concert with other members and that when confronted in discussion with contradiction or disagreement, he would get up and walk out. She counted four incidents where he left "when the committee could have really used his expertise." She also cited Leefer's highly irregular approach to the Borough Attorney, Mr.

MacManus, asking him, on his own and at extra expense to the Borough, to pursue a legal matter. He only talked to Selden about it after the fact. Selden concluded that all-in-all Leefer's behavior constitutes a disservice to the community.

Mayor Hepner explained that there are a set of procedures (in writing) which declares all persons are barred from entering water and sewer plants unless accompanied by a licensed employee. Further discussion from the public and from Council members made clear the issue of why Leefer's offers of cheaper plans for a security system and for a new chlorine building were not able to be considered. A bid of \$16,000 to build a new chlorine plant required by the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) was earlier accepted by the Council on the recommendation of Birdsall. Leefer had described in his statement a design he estimated would cost around \$4600.

When asked by David Savage why the Borough could not have waited a couple of months more to check out Leefer's plan, several council members answered that bids had gone out four months ago; that Leefer had been urged to bring up his plan at a "caucus" meeting held with Birdsall. To the last point, Leefer replied "Why wasn't I reminded?"

Others Join In

Councilmember Carol Watchler commented that Leefer knew this was an ongoing concern for the last four years and she, having also been on the Water/Sewer Committee much of the time, didn't understand why Leefer hadn't proposed it earlier. Councilmember Jim Alt sharply criticized Leefer for failure to provide the needed specifications, but "No, he gives a two paragraph description and a verbal claim to the effect that his thing does it all". Alt also pointed out that Leefer was out of town when certain decisions were taken but continues to object to them later on.

A Town is not a Private Home

During public discussion, former Councilmembers Esakoff and Datz both made the point in different ways that you do not run a municipal government the way you do a private home where you can fix things yourself or call in an unlicensed plumber and save some money. Datz said a city government is run by a massive complex of rules; that when a decision is made, dates are imposed; bids are printed, sent out and then opened all together on a certain date, studied by a professional employed to handle these matters. There are innumerable regulations regarding, for example, the hiring of operators who are union members, or the exact placement of windows, or the provision of specific safety and security features, all of which must be in compliance with said regulations before contracts can be completed.

Esakoff said, "You can't shoot from the hip. Borough procedures must be followed." David Bulkin observed that Leefer has been sitting on the Council for four whole years, but a month before election he brings up these new plans without troubling to follow the rules. He was also indignant at Leefer's letter which Bulkin said "slandered" English teachers and psychology majors as being unfit to serve on the Council.

Re-zoning Issue

Another area of debate at this Council meeting was around the introduction of a new amendment to the zoning ordinance. It requires that all habitable structures undertaken in the Borough be connected to the Public Water/Sewer System.

Councilmember Ralph Seligman discussed the pertinent rationale: Our system can accept 200 more users and we need all the support we can get, i.e., additional rate payers to help keep everyone's rates down. The discussion veered around the issue of restrictiveness. Denis Connaughton asked if a feasibility study had been made regarding comparative costs between the borough system and private septic tanks. Alt said the Council had considered putting the whole town on

septic tank installations in view of the loss of government support to local utilities. As a DEP employee he can predict that within 10 years the state will be regulating septic systems and there would be little cost advantage there. Leefer thought the amendment was proposed as a device to control growth in the town.

Control Over Growth

Seligman agreed that that was an important aspect. He cited a Supreme Court decision which supported the notion of guiding growth by means of regulating the infrastructure of a community (water, sewage, streets, etc.). He argued that the borough could prevent "bad" development such as isolated, haphazard pockets of housing separated from town life. More desirable would be building under "growth management", used by more and more communities to control the pace and locales of new houses so that they emanate out from the core. Instead of the burden of development falling on the "old town", developers are required to share, pro rata, in the costs of supplying an adequate infrastructure for the whole town.

Business of the Evening

The actual business transacted by the Council at this meeting included:

- Birdsall's discussion of the procedure for complying with the Administrative Consent Order arrived at with DEP. All efforts are being made to set a schedule and do so at reasonable costs to meet a July 1988 deadline. Once DEP approves (by June 15) there will be a 4 month period for appeal on specific measures.
- An amendment was adopted to re-zone Oscar Drive from Industrial to Residential-100 with the proviso that habitable structures be connected to the town water/sewer system.
- The liquor license was renewed at \$240.00 to RR an F Inc. It is not permitted to raise the fee more than 20% a year, but the above amount does not represent the maximum allowed.

- A contract will be awarded for the new chlorine building to GMH Co., Trenton, NJ.

- The Council endorsed a group called MAATI, a new organization dedicated to work against local toxic waste dumping.

- Richard Francis was named to perform the Dog Census.

- Senior Citizens were reimbursed for \$585.00.

- Ron Suto will be employed as full time Water/Sewer Trainee for the summer.

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Board of Education and the Borough Council, April 22.

As a consequence of the defeat of the Board of Education budget by the residents of Roosevelt, a meeting was called to discuss the means and amount of change demanded by the public. A dialogue was held between the two bodies which took the form of questions and answers regarding line items and their rationale.

Public debate followed in which many asked questions about regionalization, overpaid administrator, inflated costs, disparity between administrative and teaching costs (about 4-1) etc. John Burghardt, President of the Board obligingly answered the Council's questions, assisted by Art Unger, Financial Chair and Margaret Katz, Vice-President. Burghardt stated at one point that Roosevelt citizens had spoken loud and clear and that at least six members of the School Board were committed to investigate the question of regionalization.

A motion was passed by the Council to require the Board of Education to reduce the budget by \$25,000, with an offer for a joint meeting to help implement this task.

Board Appeals

The School Board has since declined to meet with the Council and is appealing the decision to the State Council of Education. A hearing date will be set shortly when lawyers for

both sides will appear to argue the issue. When asked about this, Mr. Burghardt stated that \$25,000 was too steep a cut to consider, inasmuch as a Council review of line items in the budget had led them to believe that the amount would be more like \$5,000. When asked if he thought the community voted down a budget of close to a million dollars to save \$5,000 he said he couldn't really know.

Mayor Hepner stated to this reporter that she was sorry the Board of Education has chosen this course. The Council tried to help them reduce the budget as the voters had indicated. She thought the percentage reduction which \$25,000 represented was small by comparison to the overall total, would be an acceptable minimum, and still reflect the wishes of the citizens of the town.

ISSUES IN TOWN GOVERNMENT

On Consent Order Sent By DEP

By Peter Warren

Early in May, DEP sent a consent order for the mayor's signature. In April 1984, shortly after the present mayor took office, DEP rated the condition of the municipal sewer UNACCEPTABLE; the plant was also rated UNACCEPTABLE in October 1985, and again in April 1986, in June 1986 and most recently in September 1986. In fact, DEP found more deficiencies in September 1986 than it did in April 1984.

In addition, the Borough casually flouted conditions for renewal of its operating license - such as sealing the bypass line which it promised to do by March 1986 and hasn't done yet and delaying for seven months the submission of a report promised for May 1986.

Instead of taking the initiative in making repairs, the Council procrastinated, thinking it was keeping DEP at bay with letters of intent. In 1985, the Engineer told the Council that DEP-mandated repairs would cost at least \$300,000. The Council trusted to luck that it could - somehow - satisfy DEP by the end of 1986 without resorting to borrowing. By December 1986, our luck ran out. The mayor, accompanied only by the Borough Engineer, was called on the carpet by DEP and agreed to the consent order.

Typically, this meeting was kept secret. The Council hasn't organized a citizen task force to assist and check on the Borough Engineer. The Council hasn't even asked the Borough Treasurer

to work out a way of paying for work estimated in February at \$434,000. There is no work plan and no budget. Instead, the mayor and Councilman Moser invent fictitious "regulations" to bar Councilman Leefer - a member of the Sewer committee and a professional engineer - from inspecting the plant. What skeletons are they trying to hide?

DEP is now imposing its own schedule for the elimination of the 10 outstanding deficiencies under pain of heavy penalties - starting at \$100 a day for not meeting the schedule - with the Roosevelt taxpayer signing a blank check, and having no control over what happens.

Editor's Note

The Council, the Borough Engineer and the Borough Attorney have been negotiating with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a schedule of compliance (Consent Order) since November, 1986. It was received on May 5 and the Mayor is waiting for a legal opinion before moving any further on it.

According to Mayor Hepner, DEP rated the sewer system unacceptable years before she took office. In September, 1986, DEP raised its standards and the town no longer had a second employee which DEP requires. In 1985 the Borough Engineer told the Council that if the Borough carried out all the specifics of the DEP mandate it could cost the Borough between two and

a half and three million dollars. The Engineer therefore negotiated with DEP to provide alternative solutions that would be environmentally satisfactory and would cost around one half a million dollars. These negotiations are not completed although some work has been done. A second employee (water/sewer trainee) has been hired, an alarm system has been installed and a bid is out for a separate chlorine room.

According to the Mayor, the negotiations were not secret but were carried out in the Borough Hall with a number of Council members present. As for the question of financing, Mr. Moser, chairman of the Public Utilities Committee, is in contact with a bonding attorney to obtain the best financial arrangements to pay for the work.

Recycling

Recycling will begin on October 1st, 1987, at which time a bulletin outlining the responsibilities, rules and regulations, and location of the recycling center will be distributed to each household. If anyone has any questions regarding recycling, please call the Borough Hall at 448-0539.

Lou Esakoff
Chairman, Recycling

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PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Farms or Houses?

By Bob Clark

At the planning board's meeting on May 6, local farmers' desires to develop their land promised to give board members their first opportunity to determine whether the borough should attempt to hold land along the town's northern approaches in agriculture in the face of residential growth pressures. While several members of the Nurko family looked on, their lawyer, John Giunco, with the help of a licensed planner and an accountant, made an informational presentation to the board proposing that it recommend to the borough council that the Nurko's 83-acre tract bordering Nurko Road and Millstone Township be rezoned from agricultural to residential with 2 1/2 acre minimum lot size.

Giunco and his witnesses said that the change in zoning would allow the Nurkos or someone who purchased their property to seek a subdivision and eventually build approximately 30 houses with individual wells and septic systems. They maintained that farming in the area could not provide a reasonable rate of return relative to the land's value. They noted that adjacent land in Millstone is zoned for residential and is already undergoing percolation tests for a subdivision application.

Mayor Freda Hepner, a planning board member, said she would be concerned about having a greater portion of the community outside of the municipal water and sewer systems. Board Chairman Alan Mallach said that the proposed rezoning would serve as a precedent for several nearby parcels. A recently-drafted master plan revision would, when formally adopted by the board, call for continued agricultural zoning for the Nurko tract and the other properties. Mallach noted that the board would perhaps adopt the new master plan and later consider the Nurkos' request for rezoning. Board member Ralph Seligman said it would be

the board's responsibility to engage in suitable planning for the entire area rather than to defer to the ideas of the individual owners, which might lead to piecemeal and uncoordinated development. Alternate member Gail Hunton said she would like to see an alternative that would be more in keeping with Roosevelt's historical green belt concept.

Giunco said the Nurko's would be willing to go along with any proposal from the town that would meet the needs of both parties. He said this could include some kind of cluster concept to preserve open spaces. He noted that the land seems to slope toward the nearby sewer plant and stated that the applicant would consider a reasonable exaction (financial contribution) to assist with water and sewer upgrades necessitated by the development.

In other business the board adopted a resolution supporting a resolution of the Monmouth County planning board calling for a nonbinding referendum to dedicate a new county tax for the purchase of more open space in the county. The new tax would operate in the same manner as the county library tax.

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LETTER TO EDITOR

To the Editor

In his letter to the April Bulletin, Peter Warren reviews the termination of his job as dog census taker in 1984. As a member of Council in 1984, I would remind him that the directions to the dog census taker were to visit each house to carry out the dog census and to be uniform, not selective, in issuing any warnings to those persons with unlicensed dogs.

Sincerely
Carol Watchler

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For your "Corrections and Inaccuracies Department:"

The Council Report in the April edition in regard to the sewer and water plants alarm system is completely incorrect. The report states that the Council agreed to have my proposed alternate alarm system evaluated and compared with the performance of the current leased systems, which cost \$3,368.00 in charges, plus the Borough engineer's fee, for the first year, and \$1,368.00 for each succeeding year. My proposed alternate system, which can be purchased for a little over \$100 each, is equivalent to the leased system, superior in some of its functions, and meets all the State's requirements. Consequently, two of them would cost

about \$230.00; installation, nothing; the annual monitoring charges, about \$360.00; and the Borough would own the equipment, not lease it. Over three years the savings would be about \$5,500.00, even assuming 50% equipment depreciation. I was donating one system, free of charge to the Borough, as well as offering to install it.

The Borough engineer, when I discussed it with him, could find no technical objection to it. Of course, he would not have received a fee if my system had been adopted.

Work was halted on the leased installations because the Borough had not made full payment for them as contracted in the lease; not, as reported, in order to evaluate and compare my gift with them.

The Council did not evaluate or compare. Despite the fact that I have been recommending its consideration of this, and other similar inexpensive alternate systems, since 1984, it has never, to my knowledge, discussed or considered them. When I finally presented a system as a gift, the Council simply rejected it.

It is important that this action and others like it be reported correctly and accurately to the community whose tax money is being needlessly squandered.

Bernie Leefer

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Council To Board of Education

The following is a copy of a letter sent by the Council to the Board of Education dated April 27, 1987 (Editor).

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Roosevelt Board of Education:

We are in receipt of your letter of April 23, 1987, and find it disappointing and somewhat puzzling. Since the voters of the community chose to defeat the proposed school budget, you well know we had a legal obligation to review it and make recommendations.

It was our understanding that there was to be a dialogue on April 23 between the members of the two elected bodies for the sake of the children and of the community. You refused to participate. Your statement to us that "strict adherence to the legally prescribed procedure" will best serve the community's interest seems to imply that if you talk to us, it would be illegal. If that is your information, it is incorrect. The law contemplates an accommodation between the Board and the Council, and all of us concerned with getting maximum educational benefits for the children with the least possible burden on taxpayers. The majority of voters who turned down the budget proposal did not signify a lack of interest in education. They were asking for closer scrutiny of the budget, and seeking to express the community's concern with taxes which

continue to rise. Most of us have had or expect to have children in the Roosevelt school. There is a former Board member among us. Most of us are either current or former teachers. Our interest in and support for education are manifest. But when the voters reject a budget proposal, elected bodies are well advised to pay close attention.

Part of this misfortune results from the fact that there is in Washington an administration which is basically hostile to education and to municipalities, and which has consistently reduced federal aid to both. This leaves us fighting over the scraps. We should instead be working together to apply pressure both in Trenton and Washington to increase outside aid.

Because you have failed to give us your valued advice and participation, the Council has been forced to review the budget proposal on its own. Our proposals are exceedingly modest and probably fall very short of what the community was hoping would happen to the budget proposal when the voters defeated it.

This Council will continue to reach out to its fellow elected officers, who are also our neighbors and friends, in order to bring about constructive dialogue between the Borough's elected officials.

Fraternally and sincerely,
Freda Hepner, Mayor



In Praise of Moser

Dear Neighbors,

Public service, in a Borough as small as ours, is a learning experience for everyone. We learn about the needs of the individuals in the community and we learn about the various ways we can meet those needs within state and fiscal restraints. Most of all, we learn about the people we serve with and how they honor the responsibilities of public office.

Ed. Moser is a most conscientious, able Councilman. As a member of the Administrative Committee, he has been invaluable in negotiating contracts, updating our personnel policy and participating in the long, difficult process of formulating budgets. As chairman of the Public Property Committee, he not only maintained and improved the Borough Hall and the Cemetery, but what is equally important to a smoothly functioning government, his careful notes and records made it easier for the next year's committee to understand how the job had to be continued.

As the current chairman of the Public Utilities Committee, Ed has the complex task of coordinating all of the data on our troubled sewer plant, evaluating D.E.P. requirements and the possible solutions offered by our Borough engineers. He keeps the Council thoroughly informed on each step in the process and is willing to discuss alternatives when they are brought forth.

Those of us who work with him find Ed to be responsive to the questions raised at meetings, alert to the problems of the individual and the town and unafraid to make difficult decisions when they are necessary. He can be counted on to pitch in when he is needed and is a most valuable public servant.

Freda Hepner
Lee Selden
Carol Watchler
Jim Alt
Ralph Seligman

Stamp News

By Joshua Ticktin

In June, only one stamp subject will be issued, but it is not an everyday issuance! On June 13, the United States Postal Service will issue a pane of 50 different stamps featuring American Wildlife. The stamps will be issued in Toronto, Canada, but First Day Cover requests should be sent to Buffalo, NY. For First Day Covers, the USPS will only accept Customer Affixed Envelopes accompanied with a SASE.

On July 4, a commemorative stamp will be issued commemorating the bicentennial of Delaware's Statehood. It will be issued in Dover, DE, which is the state's capitol.

On July 15, in Trenton, NJ, a commemorative stamp will be issued for the bicentennial of New Jersey's statehood.

On July 18, in both Washington DC, and in Rabat, Morocco, both Postal Services will issue stamps honoring 200 years of friendship between the two countries. The stamps are similar in design. The stamps both have a large red arabesque in the center. This is the 18th joint issue with a foreign country that the USPS has conducted.

If you have any questions or comments about this column, stamp issuance schedules, designs of stamps, or anything else related to stamp collection, then please write to Joshua Ticktin; Stamp Column; P.O. Box 298; Roosevelt, NJ 08555.

Due to space limitations we are forced to limit all submissions to 1 page (700) words. This month's issue adheres to this requirement in every case but two, the Viewpoint article prepared and requested some time ago, and the Council report, a perennial exception due to its importance. The editor requests that in future submissions please: COUNT YOUR WORDS.

Thank you,
The Editor

Mayoral Candidates on TWI

By Bobbi Teich and Nina Burghardt

On May 5, we interviewed candidates for mayor Mr. Moser and Mr. Leefer about the proposed toxic waste incinerator. We are part of a group called the Millstone Area Against Toxic Incineration (MAATI), which is a group of citizens from Allentown, Cream Ridge, Englishtown, Freehold, Jackson, Manalapan, Millstone, Roosevelt and Upper Freehold, who are trying to prevent the Toxic Waste Incinerator (TWI) from being sited in Millstone Township, three miles from Roosevelt.

We interviewed the candidates both in our capacity as MAATI members and as concerned citizens. We thank the candidates for making time available to discuss these concerns.

When asked to state their positions on the possible siting of the TWI, both candidates said they were against it. Mr. Moser voted for the original borough resolution protesting the siting. Mr. Leefer said that he voted against the original resolution because the way it was written did not appear to be "reasonable". Mr. Moser felt that the siting of the TWI was a political issue based on the fact that we have a small political base. In order to defeat it we would have to show political muscle.

When asked whether the borough could contribute some money towards legal or technical expertise, Mr. Moser felt that it would be possible on a limited scale. Mr. Leefer did not think there was a chance of any money going toward the TWI fight. Both men thought it would be good to have a liaison person to report on a regular basis to the council. (We have sent a request to the borough council asking that liaison be set up.) Both candidates felt that there would be no problem with using the borough hall for educational and fund raising programs.

We also asked the candidates to think about, though not necessarily answer our interview, several "what if" questions that the future mayor will have to answer. They are as follows:

In the eventuality that the TWI will be built in this area:

1. How would the residents of Roosevelt be alerted in case of a spill, a release of a noxious cloud from the incinerator or an accident in transport?
2. What can Roosevelt do to protect itself from the same?
3. How would residents with no transportation be evacuated in case of an emergency?
4. How long does the TWI have, in case of an accident, before it has to notify the surrounding communities?
5. Who would be responsible financially, to clean up our environment in case of possible contamination?
6. Who would pay for hospital costs incurred from possible spillage or blowout?
7. Do our Firepersons have training in chemical cleanup? Does their insurance cover bodily harm caused by chemical cleanup?

Candidates night is June 1 at the borough hall, if you have any more questions to ask the candidates, this would be the time.

If you want to get involved in MAATI or have any questions, please phone Bobbi Teich at 448-5036 or Nina Burghardt at 443-4857.

Dear Residents:

Because of an administrative oversight, your water and sewer bills, for the month of May, were improperly calculated.

Consequently, in June, you will be charged an additional \$5.00 which will be applied to your payment for the month of May. Thereafter, your monthly payment for water and sewer usage will be \$55.00, according to the amended Water/Sewer Ordinance adopted on April 8, 1987.

Krystyna Bieracka
Borough Clerk

An Open Letter to Peter Warren

Dear Peter,

You have written a number of articles for the Bulletin this year, each one an attack on the town's administration, particularly the Mayor. I have read replies, some of them very strong, by Messrs. Weiner, Essakoff, and Moser. I believe that their rebuttles were well taken.

In the last issue you attempt to cavil with a statement by the Mayor about the way the sewer system has been neglected over the years. The trouble is that again you are misquoting and distorting. Although the Mayor did not refer to the water system, you mention the good condition of the water system -- in 1973! The 1987 Master Plan, which you invoke, states "...the community has been able significantly to upgrade its water supply system to the point that today it is capable of providing an adequate supply of safe drinking water..." So what's the beef? The Mayor did not refer to the neglect of the water system but to the neglect of the sewer system.

The same 1987 Master Plan, when referring to the sewer system states: "Problems of infiltration into the system, as well as inadequacies of the Pine Drive treatment plant, identified in the 1987 Master Plan, are still very much a reality. At present the system is in severe disrepair..." Even the 1978 Master Plan (which you may have intended to cite) refers to sewer plant problems, pointing out that the Borough was looking into Federal government financing which, by the way, never materialized after the 1980 presidential election.

I was on the Borough Council from 1977 to 1983. The water plant was upgraded during this time at great cost. Had it been properly maintained in previous years, the large expenditure of money would not then have been necessary. I can attest to the fact that the sewer plant was not properly maintained for many years under a number of mayors.

You also attack the Mayor for "abruptly" changing the town engineer. The Mayor had nothing to do with that change. My last activity as a member of the Council in 1983, before the present Mayor took office, was, along with other councilpersons, to interview other engineering firms because the Council had found that the work of the engineer we had was unsatisfactory. The new Mayor, when she took office, was met with an accomplished fact. Even if she had wished otherwise, she had no choice but to accede to the Council's wish to appoint a new Borough Engineer.

As an economist you must know that checking facts is very important. I am puzzled, Peter, to really understand what is bothering you. People say it is your unhappy experience as dog census taker. I can't believe that that incident caused this path of distortion and general pique! I think that mature Roosevelt citizens ought to rise above petty dissatisfactions and work to achieve a harmonious solution to our problems instead of resorting to unfounded invective.

So enough already, let sleeping dogs lie.

Aaron Datz

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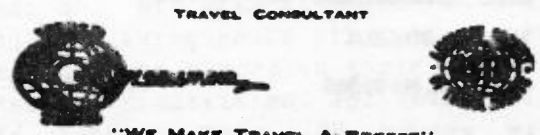
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SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Citizens Air Grievances

By P.D. Hazell

Opening this month's Board meeting were a number of visitors requests. Margaret Schlinski made a request to observe the classes of Ilene Levine and Bonnie Strapp, third and fourth grade teachers. Miss Schlinski's request was granted after being discussed in closed session.

Also discussed in closed session was a letter and request from Joan Grossman on the safety of the children at school. Amongst her grievances were the dangerous situation that the fire exit door was padlocked and barred in the morning when most of the children first arrived at school, that offices were locked and that teachers calling in to say they would be absent or late could not inform anyone. In fact, she said, no-one could contact the school which resulted in classes being left with no-one in charge.

This happened, she said, because the principal, the secretary, and the janitor (who each had keys for the door and offices) were not present. This was the first time that this had happened in five years, she added. Mrs. Grossman was concerned that this become a chronic problem. She felt the Principal should be in school in the morning to make sure everything is running smoothly she said, adding that this is a serious situation that needs immediate attention.

Dr. Sussman pointed out that there is only one set of keys to the school. He said that in the short run we will have to rotate the keys between members of the staff. Later he added that he could provide everyone with the keys to the padlock and the teachers access to phones. He concluded by saying, "Kids should not be in the building if that door is padlocked." Margaret Schlinski commented by saying "I think it would help if Dr. Sussman were here when school starts." The Board agreed to investigate the problem

and the subject will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. DeSotto sent a detailed letter to the board complaining about the state of the school. Some of the things on her list were that there should be more trash cans outside, that the students with bicycles left them on the ground, that the old bicycle rack near one of the doors was an eyesore and a safety hazard and that the lawn should be mowed. Commenting on the interior, she suggested that the school should be painted, cooled in the summer, and that there was a serious lack of school spirit. She then talked of two of the teachers in school, saying "Mrs. Mayberg and Mrs. Gagliardi are enthusiastic, loving, kind people." Mrs. De Sotto also suggested that there should be teachers aides to interact with the students and teachers.

Probably Mrs. Desotto's biggest concern was the danger of the broken glass in the playground not just to the students, but to anyone who took their children there. The Board will be discussing Mrs. DeSotto's letter and her suggestions, and will probably talk further of it at the next meeting.

The Board will investigate other ways of schooling for our students: regionalization, receiving other students, or other options. They will have an open meeting with the public, intending to discuss public options, in June or July.

On Monday, May 18th there will be a public meeting to review the draft policy of Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco abuse.

Finally, the decisions were in for the committee chairpeople and Committee members. The Chairperson for the Personnel Committee is Margaret Katz, the Committee members are Debra Allen and Ed Grossman. On the Finance Committee Art Unger is the Chairperson, David Keller is the Committee member.

The Chairperson for the Building and Grounds Committee is Art Unger, the Committee, Margaret Katz is the Chairperson, Helen Pryzchocki is Committee member. Ed Grossman is the Chairperson for the Education Committee, while David Keller and Pam Winslow are Committee members. Debra Allen is Chairperson for the Policy Committee, Pam Winslow and Robin McLaughlin are Committee members. On the Delegate NJSBA and the Negotiations Committee, Margaret Katz is the Chairperson, and Helen Pryzchocki is Committee member. And, on the Legislation Committee, Pam Winslow has been suggested for the position of Chairperson, although there are no final decisions on who the Committee members will be. The final decisions should be made at the next Board meeting.

SENIOR NEWS

Senior Citizen's Meeting
May 5, 1987

By Helga Wisowaty

In April our club went to see "Woman of the Year" at Club Bene. The play was good and the food was delicious.

On June 10 we go to the Garden State Art Center to see "Fiddler on the Roof". Another trip to the Quaker Bridge Mall has been suggested.

Ilse Reisenfeld accompanied "The Villagers" who entertained us during this meeting. We appreciated their coming and hope that they will return soon.

Betty and Marguerite were our hostesses. The refreshments were delicious.

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Shavuoth: Birthday of the Jewish Religion

By Freda Anish

The joyful holiday of Shavuoth will arrive here on June 3rd. That would be seven weeks from the first night of Passover when the Omer was first counted, culminating, therefore, in another name for this holiday: Feast of the First Fruits (Chag Habikurim).

It was said that Moses said to God: Go to the women first, acquaint them with the principles of Judaism. They will accept them, then the men will follow. The Midrash (wisely) recognizes that the woman sets the pattern of learning for her family.

It is also the birthday of the Jewish religion as God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai in this time. The Decalogue is;

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

In the synagogue the Book of Ruth is read. It depicts Naomi's daughter-in-law, Ruth, embracing a new religion by telling Naomi "whither thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God." This same Ruth was the mother of King David.

Favorite foods at Shavuoth time are dairy foods; legend has it that there was no Kashruth law as these laws

were brought down from Mt. Sinai with Moses and there not being enough time to Kasher the meat, quick dairy foods were prepared.

I think the most popular dairy food, at Shavuoth time, is Blintzes.

Blintzes:

1 cup flour 4 eggs
1 cup milk 1 esp salt

Mix all together. The batter will be loose and the secret for thin crepes "is in the wrist". Pour some batter into hot (small) fry pan that has been greased with butter. When bubbles start to form, use a spatula to turn crepe over just long enough to get warmed (and thereby dry). Remove onto a towel and repeat until all the batter is used up.

Mix together some Farmer Cheese Lemon rind

Sugar Eggs
Salt

and taste to your satisfaction. Place cheese mixture by spoonful onto each crepe, roll and fold (almost like an envelope). When ready to eat, melt butter in a fry pan and add the filled crepes, turning slowly to brown. Serve with sour cream or fresh fruit.



September Enrollment Now Going On

By Alison Edwards Petrilla

With summer vacation just ahead, the Aleph Bet Jewish Sunday School at Roosevelt's own Congregation Anshei is now enrolling youngsters for its September reopening.

We are once again planning to offer the children a play and learning experience focusing on Jewish holidays, culture, and traditions, and to continue hosting our family-oriented special events. (This semester's festivities included a Purim party, Model Seder, and Lag B'Omer picnic, and we hope to expand our family activities in the coming school year.)

Children between 2 1/2 and 7 years old are eligible for Sunday School and synagogue membership is not necessary. To facilitate teaching -- and learning --, we hope to divide the group by separating the 2 1/2 - to - 4 year olds from the older children for some activities. Our teacher again will be

Karyn Grunwald, an experienced nursery school teacher and instructor in the field of early Jewish education.

So-- if you're already an Aleph Bet parent or if you's like your child to start in September, please plan to come to our daytime Closing Party on Sunday, June 7. While the kids have a ball, we parents can pool our thoughts on such vital issues as optimal class hours, developing a school calendar, choosing subject matter, and determining how often classes should meet. (We currently have school for an hour and a half every Sunday morning, but we are considering a revised schedule.)

In order for this program to succeed, we need your children and your input and your support! We look forward to meeting you new parents and talking again with you "old timers" on June 7 -- please call Karyn Grunwald NDW at 426-9064 for details.

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Fundraising Stepping Up

By Joan Grossman, Diana Moore:

Nursery School Fundraising Co-Chairs

With September just around the corner, the fundraising activities of the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School are stepping up. Now that our \$1000 in seed money has been raised, we're turning our efforts to the capital needs and startup supplies and materials needed to open our school this fall.

Before we announce our plans for the next two months, we'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank again each and every one who has contributed to our effort. In addition to filling our bankbook a bit, your support has provided the impetus which has helped us to move along in all other areas, as well.

Now to our plans.

Among upcoming fundraisers are two bake sales, Saturdays June 6 and 27, from 8:30 in front of the Post Office, as usual. And, we've scheduled two "Dress-for-Success" fundraisers, one on Friday, June 19th for men (a great Father's Day gift idea) another the following Wednesday, June 24th. The charge is \$15 per person. Both will be held at the Boro Hall, beginning at 8 PM. Roosevelt color consultants Colleen Rossi and Kim Bonus conduct the sessions, which include a "seasonal draping" to determine which colors and fabrics best accent each individual's hair and skin tones for an overall better look. In addition, at no extra charge, the women's session includes consultation on make-up.

We're happy to present gift certificates to anyone you wish to gift with these sessions. Look for our fliers or call Diana at 448-7742 for more details. Reservations for June 19th (men) are due June 15; for the 24th (women) are due June 20th, to our Post Office Box 153. We request that all be pre-paid, if possible.

Roosevelt woodcutter Stefan Martin is creating special limited edition print to help fill our coffers. The 100 prints will be numbered and signed, with a price tag of \$40 each. We expect the prints to be on sale at the town's 4th of July picnic and be available after that date, while the supply lasts. Advance orders may be placed by sending a check, payable to Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School, to Fundraising Committee, RCNS, P.O. Box 153, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Call Diana at 448-7742 for more information.

Our Tupperware Party fundraiser and accompanying orders were so successful that we've earned some bonus prizes which will be raffled off at the July 4th picnic. At \$1 each, the raffle tickets entitle the holders to a chance to win a first prize of a portable gas grill, a second prize of a two-piece Coleman cooler set filled with tupperware, or a third prize of the Tupperware "All-American" set: a hot dog holder, individual hamburger patty holders and large bun holder with handle. Tickets will be on sale at our June bake sales, from Nursery School committee members, and at the 4th of July picnic prior to the raffle drawing. Call Joan at 448-9385 to purchase a raffle ticket or to help us sell them.

Now that our capital campaign drive is in full swing, we'll gladly accept financial contributions toward specific items. To help us secure this capital needs and/or startup supplies, please send your check or money order along with notation of which item you're interested in helping us purchase, to Fundraising Committee, RCNS, P.O. Box 153, Roosevelt, NJ. as with all contributions, these are tax deductible. Call Joan 448-9385, for information. Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.



Busy Summer Ahead

By Alison Edwards Petrilla

Other schools may be winding down for vacation, but the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School is gearing up for a summer of continued action.


Since the last Bulletin, our advertisements for a state-certified director and teacher were run in 17 local newspapers and the results of our Screening Committee's labors are nearly ready to be announce. Our introductory brochure had been printed and hand-delivered to all Roosevelt homes and is now making the rounds in Millstone and East Windsor. And our telephone has been installed so we're ready to answer any questions you may have.

We can't stop now, though. With our September opening only a few months away, our enrollment drive and capital campaign will be in full swing all summer; (See accompanying article). All donations, of course, will be acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, we have plenty of thank you's now. First we'd like to tell Dave Teich (B & D Graphics) again how much we appreciate the excellent work he did to prepare our brochure for publication. We also thank the stalwart Rooseveltians and Evelyn Edelstein who coordinated the sale; those who purchased baked goods (with special thanks to those who helped bake!); and our two official babysitters, Traci Connaughton and Kate Bauerle, who've helped so much to make our weekly directors' meetings run smoothly. And a hearty thank you also to the Kids Kloset clothing concession in Edinburgh for selling our collected kids' clothes for us and helping to support our nursery school.

Next up will be our Open House for parents and prospective nursery schoolers. Watch for details.

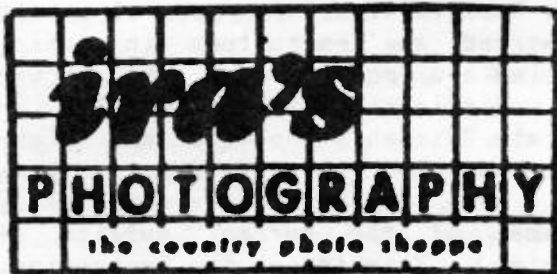
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Whose School is it Anyway?

By Leslie Weiner

One afternoon not long ago four men were driving east from Princeton, having attended a conference of school administrators. One of the four was Arthur Mitchell, now Director of Adult and Community Education for the Tom's River district. Twenty years ago Mitchell had been the widely admired teacher and principal at RPS before the needs of his growing family forced him to move into a more lucrative position. As the car approached Hightstown Mitchell persuaded his colleagues to make the short detour which would take them to Roosevelt. They were familiar with his enthusiastic recounting of his happy four years in this "special little town" and in particular were eager to see the famous Shahn mural in Mitchell's former school.

When the four educators entered the lobby Mitchell immediately sought out the principal. He didn't have far to go. Stanley Sussman was standing in the hallway in front of his office. Mitchell introduced himself as one of Sussman's predecessors, told him he had been boasting of this school to his friends, and now they all wanted to look at the mural about which they heard so much. He looked for a sign of welcome in Sussman's face but found none.

"You can't stay," Sussman said sharply, loud enough for all to hear, "school's in session."

Mitchell was taken aback. "But there are no children around. We'll just take a minute for a quick look."

The principal's expression remained cold and aggrieved. He folded his arms on his chest and stared balefully at the others. "All right," he uttered grudgingly. He hadn't moved from his original defensive stance.

Deeply embarrassed, Mitchell joined his friends in the lobby. "I'm terribly sorry, fellows," he said. "I think we'd better go."

"What's wrong with that guy?" one of the men said.

"What the hell is that?" said another, lifting his head at the grimly vigilant figure in the hallway.

The four got back into their car and drove home in silence. All of the foregoing was told to me by Mr. Mitchell.

This example of plain bad manners and worse is not inconsistent with Dr. Sussman's conscious policy of keeping the school separated and isolated from the community at large. He has little contact with our residents nor has he shown knowledge or appreciation of the healthy close relations between school and town which has been a hallmark of most of our fifty years. He regards what transpires in the school as his business and his alone.

Very few of us know what happens in the classroom and that is perhaps as it should be. We do know however that those Rooseveltians with special skills who worked as instructors in music, painting and pottery and who served with distinction were unable to tolerate Sussman's hostile and high-handed ways and resigned. We also know that many parents are extremely critical of the current quality of teaching. This is not too surprising, since leadership in the mode of a Prussian sergeant hardly fosters an atmosphere of eager learning.

Mr. Sussman has been obstructive in other ways. When the School Board, after the recent defeat of its budget, met with the Council to settle on an adjustment, the Council offered a very modest reduction (\$25,000, less than 3% of the budget). To eyewitnesses attending the joint meeting of the two bodies, several members of the Board seemed to regard this figure as eminently reasonable. But then Mr. Sussman called the Board into private consultation with him; when the meeting resumed the Board summarily rejected the Council's offer and apparently is now intent on stonewalling against the town's mandate. It would seem that our

taxpayers are qualified to pay the principal's salary (not modest) but their judgment of the school budget is not to be respected or taken seriously by him.


Roosevelt citizens have always been proud of its school and have adopted an abiding beneficent interest in it, whether or not our children were students there. I think recent events have raised an issue which will have to be addressed: it is time to take back our school.

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Shahn exhibit in June

The Ocean County Jewish Federation is sponsoring in conjunction with Ocean County College of Toms River an exclusive showing of the graphic works of Ben Shahn.

The exhibit can be seen from June 1st until June 25th at the Fine Arts Building at the college (College Drive off Hooper Ave Toms River). The hours are daily from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

The collection is on loan from the Trenton State Museum, Zoltan Buki, curator.

The opening event on June 1st will give the audience an opportunity to hear Bernarda Bryson Shahn, widow of Ben speaking about her close collaboration with the artist.

Mathew Baigell, art history professor at Rutgers and author of "Artists against War and Fascism" will speak on the social and artistic impact of Ben Shahn's work.

You are cordially invited to this special invitation affair; however please call the Federation (201) 363-0530 for reservations.

Two satellite events will also take place; one on Thursday June 11 at 7:30 PM at the Ocean County library, 101 Washington St., Toms River, where we will show a short biographical film and slides of Ben Shahn with the noted Roosevelt artist Stefan Martin as moderator; and the other on Tuesday June 16th at the Lakewood library, 200 Monmouth Ave. at 7:30PM where we will have a speaker on Ben Shahn and the town of Roosevelt.

No advance reservations are needed for these events at the libraries, and admission is free.

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MEETING**



Monday, June 1, 1987 – 8 PM

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