

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY
THE FIRST 50 YEARS
1936 - 1986

PART 1 of 2

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY
THE FIRST 50 YEARS
1936-1986

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Introduction

The Roosevelt First Aid Squad proudly presents this book depicting the first fifty years of our community.

The original settlers ventured forth from the confines of urban life in the big city to an unknown future in the rural experiment known as "Jersey Homesteads." Their adventurous spirit laid the foundation for the town we now call "Roosevelt."

As we assembled the articles and photographs for this commemorative book, we found ourselves in a time machine in the past and became enchanted with the information we gathered and the spirit that spilled out of these relics. Our special thanks to all who contributed from their personal collections to this book.

We hope this collection brings you as much joy and pleasure as we had in compiling this first edition.





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 27, 1986

To the Citizens of Roosevelt, New Jersey:

I am pleased to send warm greetings for the 50th anniversary of Roosevelt.

Each city and town of our great country is unique, but all are bound together in the love of these United States. We are fortunate to live in a nation of strong and proud communities where everyone has a chance for success and the blessings of liberty and freedom can be enjoyed by all, regardless of background.

As you commemorate this anniversary, you have a splendid opportunity to renew your commitment to preserve the spirit which has forged America into a land of wonder. I am proud to join you in making such a commitment on this historic occasion for the people of Roosevelt.

With hearty congratulations and best wishes for continued milestones,

Ronald Reagan

BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING

April 2, 1986

Mr. Bill Counterman
Chairman 50th Anniversary
Roosevelt First Aid Squad
North Rochdale Avenue
Roosevelt, New Jersey 08555

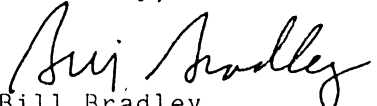
Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the
founding of the Borough of Roosevelt.

Your unique community has been an inspiration to many
New Jersey communities. You have demonstrated the
importance of civic involvement, responsibility, and
community spirit. I am delighted to recognize your
contributions to the state and look forward to your
future successes.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/amj



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
NEW JERSEY

April 30, 1986

The Borough of Roosevelt
c/o Ms. Louise Prezant
Box 66
Roosevelt, New Jersey 08555

Dear Friends:

Congratulation's on the celebration of your town's 50th anniversary.

The Borough of Roosevelt is a close knit and value-oriented community that has the unique distinction of being created from the hopes and dreams of 200 people who were caught in the Depression. This anniversary celebration is a tribute to those people who made their dreams come true. It is also a tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt who shared these dreams and had the foresight to know that a W.P.A. community could succeed and prosper.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for continued success and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "L".

FRL:eoc



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
FOURTH DISTRICT
NEW JERSEY

May 1986

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Borough of Roosevelt:

I am delighted to take this opportunity to extend to all of you my warmest greetings and congratulations upon the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Roosevelt.

For fifty years, the residents of Roosevelt have worked together as a community, helping each other in hard times and rejoicing in glad times. Roosevelt is a very special community which looks after the needs of its citizens, and you have a right to be proud of the many contributions Roosevelt and its citizens have made to our state.

I look forward to joining with you in this special celebration as friends and neighbors from the past as well as the present gather to remember the past fifty years. Again, congratulations and best wishes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CN-001
TRENTON
08625

THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1986

To: The Citizens of the
Borough of Roosevelt

Dear Friends:

As Governor of New Jersey, I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes on the occasion of the borough's 50th birthday celebration.

In celebrating this event, we do more than just mark the passage of time. We take this opportunity to recall those citizens who established and advanced the community of Roosevelt. We also recognize those people whose service and dedication sustains the prosperous community of today.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Kean".

Thomas H. Kean
Governor



NEW JERSEY SENATE

S. THOMAS GAGLIANO

MINORITY LEADER

SENATOR, 12TH DISTRICT

1090 BROADWAY

WEST LONG BRANCH, N.J. 07764

201-870-6611

March 14, 1986

Dear Friends:

The Borough of Roosevelt is no ordinary town. While most communities were founded more or less by accident--for reasons of convenience, or commerce, or sheer necessity--Roosevelt was founded on principle.

At the height of the Great Depression, your community represented the hope for a better, more just life that America itself has represented for millions of settlers from around the world.

It is therefore a fitting coincidence that Roosevelt's 50th Anniversary occurs on the eve of our own Constitutional Bicentennial. A commitment to equal opportunity, civil liberties and community spirit characterizes both America's best tradition and Roosevelt's.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Thomas Gagliano".

S. Thomas Gagliano
Senator

STG:mg



Borough of Roosevelt

Jersey Homesteads Historic District

MONMOUTH COUNTY • ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY 08555
(609) 448-0539

FREDA HEPNER
Mayor

KRYSTYNA BIERACKA
Borough Clerk


Dear Neighbors:

It is a very special pleasure to congratulate the residents of Roosevelt, past and present, for committing themselves to building a unique community.

Fifty years ago, there were many who were confident that an "experiment" like the Jersey Homesteads would never work. People doubted that a cooperative settlement of urban garment workers could survive in the "wilds" of New Jersey. Those pioneers, however, who moved their families and belongings to the then half-built houses and streets, had a clearer vision. Whatever their diverse political, social and religious convictions were, they came here to build a better, more just, more enlightened life for their children and grandchildren. They fulfilled those ambitions and the community has not only survived, but has prospered during these fifty years.

We have retained the basic tenets of community that the homesteaders brought here. With under 1,000 residents, of modest incomes the Borough is able to provide a variety of institutions and services simply because of the commitment of people, from all walks of life, to their neighbors. This can only happen because of the many who serve as volunteers on our First Aid Squad and Fire Company; those who donate their energies to the Boards, Councils and committees of the government; and many who extend themselves to helping others.

This is not homogeneous community. Our occupations, politics, and personal interest take us in many directions. Yet, we continue to share a concern for each other and a pride in our diversity. It is that continuity of basic community values that has made Roosevelt prosper and will enable us to meet the challenges of the years to come.


Freda Hepner, Mayor



United States
of America

No. 57—Part II

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 99th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 132

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1986

No. 57—Part II

Senate

BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Borough of Roosevelt in New Jersey on this its 50th anniversary.

The Borough of Roosevelt is a unique and extraordinary community. It represents an important slice of the American dream and spirit. It was founded in 1936, in the depth of the depression. That year 200 families, mostly immigrant garment workers from New York City, were invited to create new lives for themselves in a new community across the Hudson River. The Government built the homes, the factory, a public works system, and a school, and then the people came and filled up the buildings with their hopes and dreams for the future.

There was a culture, pride, and camaraderie among the citizens of the Borough of Roosevelt. The town developed a thriving art community: Artists like Jacob Landau, David Stone Martin, Gregorio Prestopino, and Steven Market all relished the small-town lifestyle and the picturesque landscapes Roosevelt offered them.

Success touched many of its citizens, and businessmen like Charles Klatskin fondly recall the solid foundation growing up in Roosevelt gave them

when they moved to new frontiers. Those who spent their youth in that small town nurture fond memories of their unbringing and attribute much of their later success in life to the strong sense of community that Roosevelt bred in them. This sense of identity with hometown certainly is not limited to this township, but because of its unique origin Roosevelt is special.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created this town as a Works Projects Administration community. The township itself is a historic monument, one of very few townships to be so honored. Originally, it was known as Jersey Homestead. After Roosevelt died, the people of the town decided to name the town after the President whose program had inspired the creation of their community.

Mr. President, this 50th celebration is a tribute to the citizens of Roosevelt who had the dedication, commitment, and courage to root their lives and their fortunes in a new town during a period of national crisis. It is also a tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt who shared the dreams of these homesteaders for a better life and had the foresight to know that a WPA community would succeed and prosper.

I offer the citizens of Roosevelt my hearty congratulations at this milestone in their history, and wish them continued growth and prosperity.●

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Section I

FROM THE BEGINNING

“In a rural area in the western part of the county there developed during the Depression the unique social experiment known as Jersey Homesteads (now called Roosevelt). Planned as a cooperative agricultural and industrial community for unemployed Jewish garment workers, it should not be considered just a farm community.”

From “Peddler to Suburbanite: The
History of the Jews of Monmouth
County, New Jersey From the
Colonial Period to 1980”



Settlement and Early History

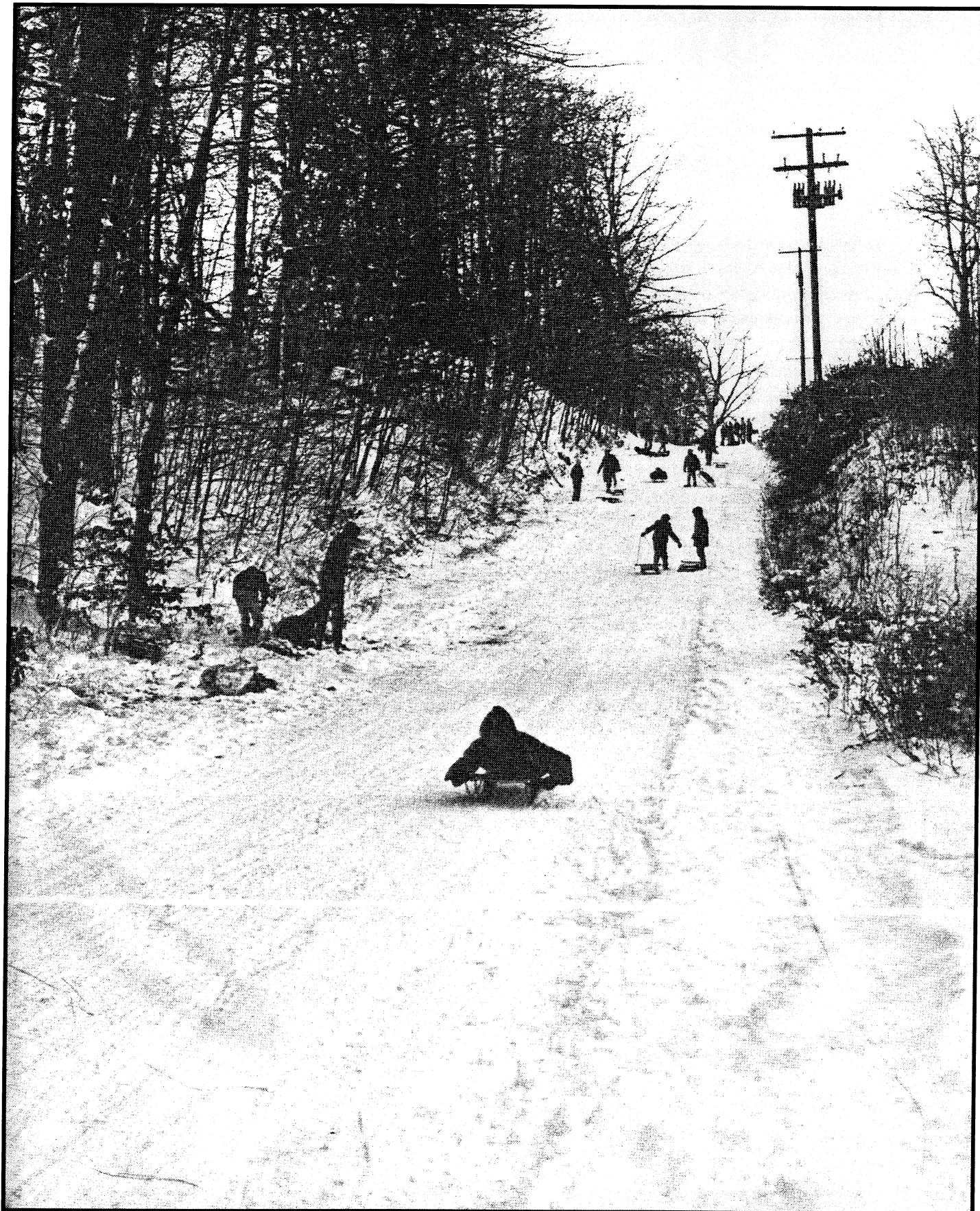
“In November the Jersey Homesteads Historic District in Roosevelt Borough, Monmouth County, and the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company building in Newark were added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

“Jersey Homesteads, which was later called Roosevelt, was one of 99 New Deal communities established in the 1930s. The federal government carried out this experiment in community and economic planning to help relieve widespread industrial unemployment through the relocation of urban workers to rural areas, as well as to show the economic feasibility of combining seasonal industry with part-time agriculture.

“Constructed from 1935 to 1938 at a cost of \$3,402,382, Jersey Homesteads was the ninth largest of all the planned communities of that era. The historic district, which includes all of Roosevelt Borough, consists of 249 structures, including six 19th and 20th-century farmhouses and 151 buildings constructed as part of the Jersey Homesteads program. The Bauhaus-type architecture represents some of the early work of the architect, Louis I. Kahn.

“Of all the New Deal communities, Roosevelt was the only one planned as an agro-industrial community with cooperative factory, farms and retail stores. It was the only one established for urban Jewish garment workers. One of the last physically intact communities established by the federal subsistence program, it is also closely associated with the life and works of the artist, Ben Shahn.”

From N.J. Historical Commission Newsletter, May 1984.



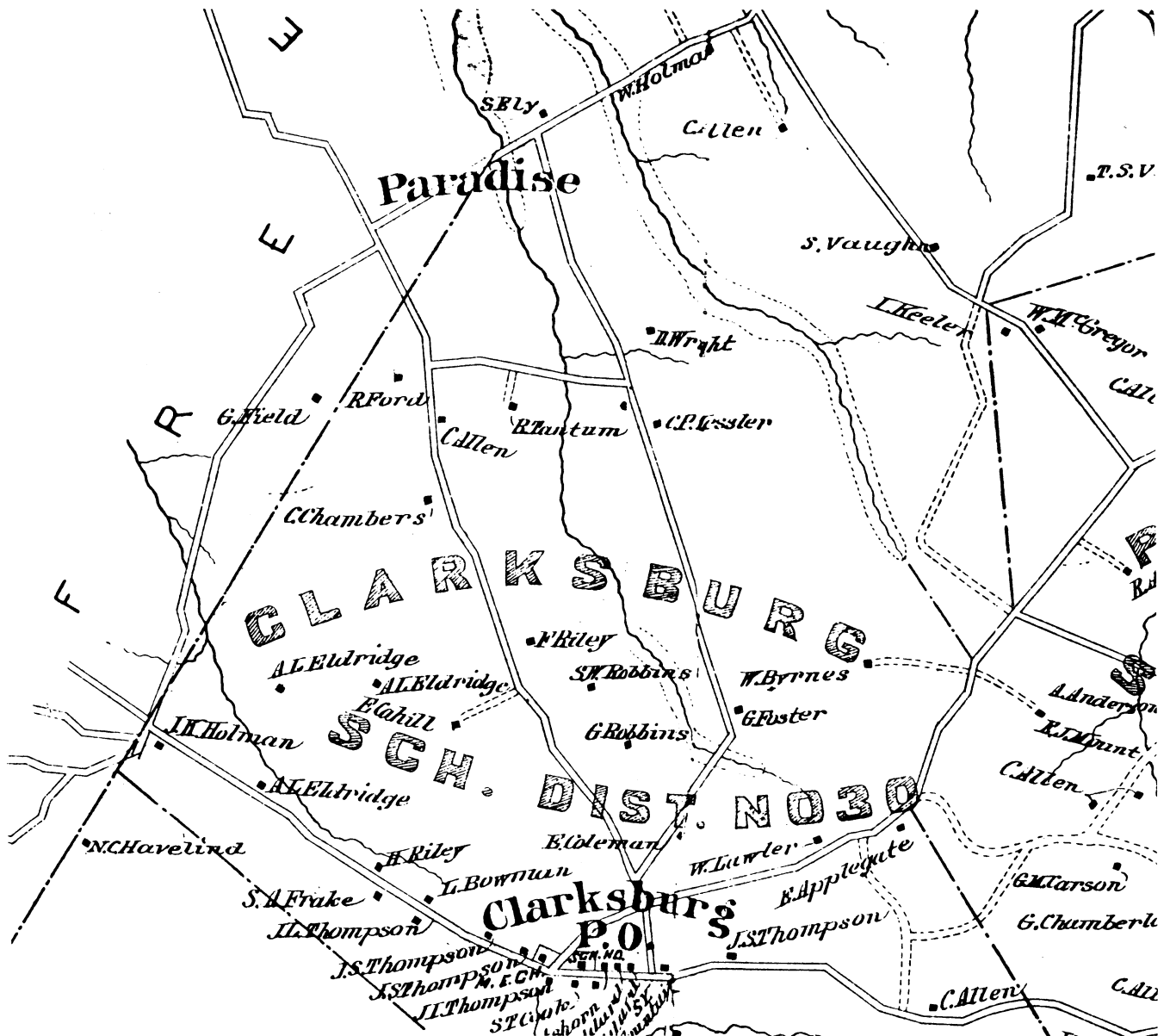
Sledding down Paradise Hill. Photo by Edwin Roskam

When Roosevelt was Really Paradise

By Michael Ticktin

As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Jersey Homesteads community in 1936, and the founding of the Borough of Jersey Homesteads in 1937, it is well to remember that this place in which we now live was here, and was lived in, before 1936. This part of Millstone Township, or at least the section of it south of Empty Box Creek, even had a name. It was a hamlet called Paradise.

Paradise does not appear to have been an overly populated rural center. Indeed, the area that was clearly part of Paradise, as shown on the accompanying 1889 map, had only one house, which appears to have been at or near what is now the northwest corner of the intersection of South Rochdale Avenue and Tamara Drive. Within the territory that was later to be Jersey Homesteads (and Roosevelt), however, the Greater Paradise Metropolitan Area if you will, there were eight more



houses. Five of these – the Britten House, the farm house of the horse farm at the end of Lake Drive, the farm house on the long right-of-way extending from North Rochdale Avenue and two houses on Nurko Road – are still standing. The other three were located near the southeast corner of Homestead Lane and North Rochdale Avenue, near the triangle on Tamara Drive and north of Nurko Road on the opposite side of North Rochdale Avenue.

Admittedly, the historical significance of the hamlet of Paradise is modest. County maps published in 1851 and 1861 do not show the name. Indeed, who considered this to be Paradise and why are mysteries the answers to which are not found in any records I have been able to locate. With the coming of the Jersey Homesteads development the name Paradise disappeared as quietly as it had come, leaving behind only the popular name of the hill leading from South Rochdale Avenue into the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area – Paradise Hill.

There is part of the present territory of Roosevelt, however, which *may* have had significance in the Revolutionary War. North of Eleanor Lane, there is a ridge which contains the highest land in the Borough. From an elevation of 190 feet above sea level at North Valley Road, it rises to over 300 feet in Millstone Township. According to a 1982 history of Millstone by Jean E. Mount, this hill between Roosevelt, Clarksburg and Perrineville exhibits patterns of drainage that conform to descriptions of a hill known during the Revolution as Center Hill. In 1779, Center Hill was one of three hills in Monmouth County that constituted part of a network of beacons intended to be used for signaling the militia throughout the northern part of the State. It is known to have been located within Millstone Township, though its precise location is uncertain.

Without the events of 1936, this place would surely never have risen to the status of an Historic District. But never forget that before then it was Paradise.

Department of The Interior

Memorandum to The Press

FOR RELEASE IN MORNING PAPERS
SATURDAY , DECEMBER 23, 1933

Secretary Harold L. Ickes today announced plans for the establishment of a subsistence homestead community in Monmouth County, New Jersey, under the direction of the Subsistence Homesteads Division of the Department of the Interior.

The project will be a demonstration in decentralized industry and subsistence farming, involving needle workers in the clothing trades. Homesteads will be provided for 200 families, including approximately 1,000 people. The cost of each homestead will be about \$3,000.

Practically all of the homesteaders will be selected from among Jewish needle workers in the congested clothing manufacturing area of New York City, with a few from Jersey City, Newark and Philadelphia.

A loan of \$500,000 will be made by the Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation through which the Division functions, to a local corporation to be organized within a few days which will assume responsibility for development of the project.

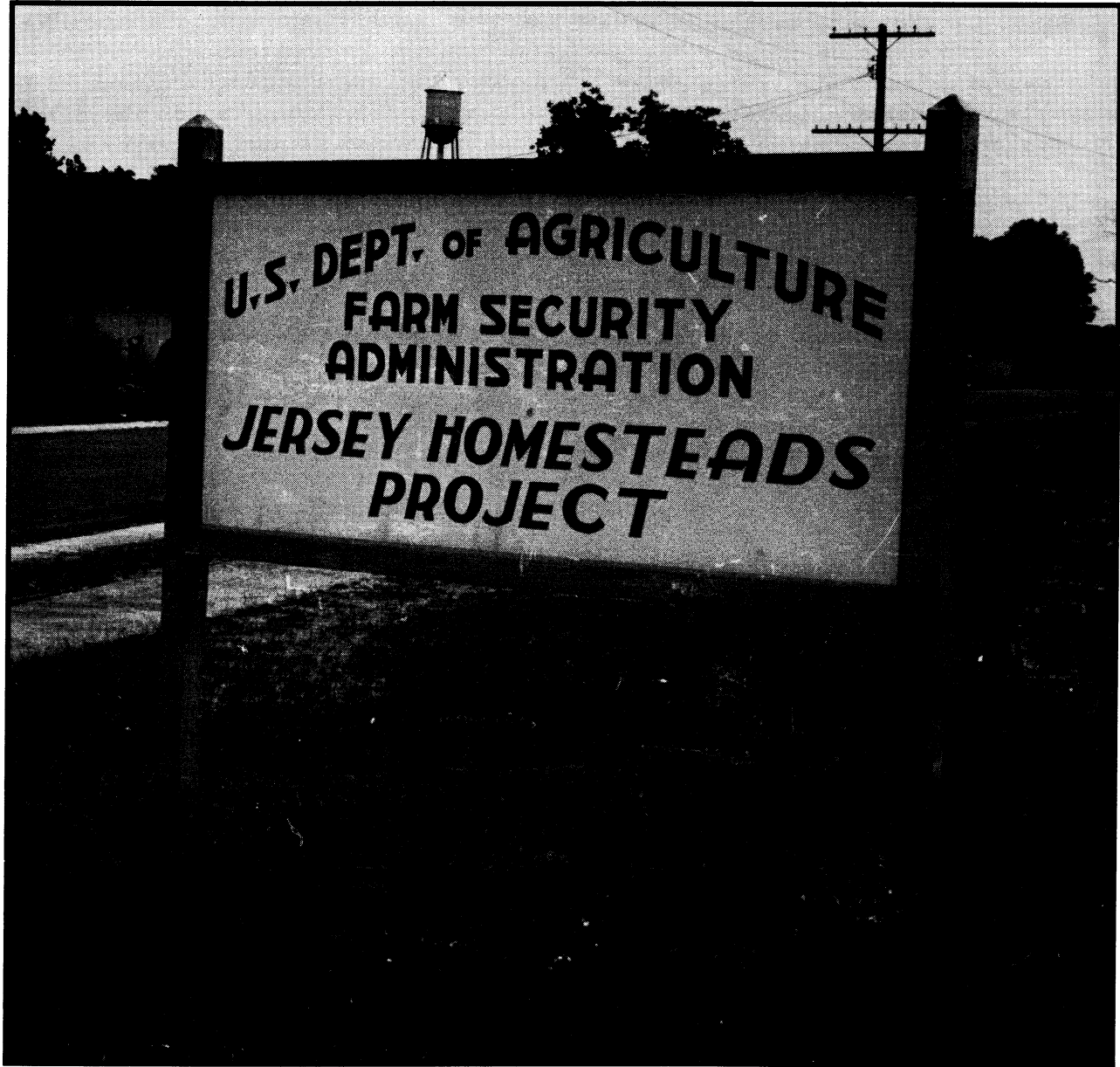
A factory building to be financed entirely by private funds will be erected in the community, near the post-office of Hightstown, New Jersey. The factory building will cost from \$12,000 to \$15,000, with the cost of equipment bringing the total investment in it from \$30,000 to \$35,000.

The factory will have private support to the extent where the homesteaders will be assured of a definite cash income and will operate under provisions of the N.R.A. code. The occupants of the homesteads will follow their ordinary occupations. The factory will maintain contact with the New York market for its supply of unfinished goods and for disposal of its finished product.

For years the congestion of the needle trade has been regarded as unhealthy both socially and industrially. Members of the Jewish race represent the biggest single group among needle workers. They have greatly suffered from insufficiency of light, ventilation and other unsatisfactory working conditions.

The Monmouth factory will be erected with a view of serving as a model in design, in providing workers with the most satisfactory physical conditions, and will be organized so as to adapt itself to full cooperative ownership eventually. The cooperation of needle trade labor organizations has been obtained and their sympathetic interest in the demonstration assured.

Each homestead will have an acre or more for a vegetable garden, fruit trees, and a lawn. Options have been obtained on 1,253 acres of land, representing eight farms which have been under intensive cultivation. The richest 200 acres will be used as homestead sites. The remainder will be organized into a cooperative farm which will have a dairy herd, a hennery, and facilities for providing other food wants of the community.



Members of the community will contribute labor to the farm which will not engage in production for sale outside of the community.

A school capable of housing 300 pupils and a community center will also be erected.

Each purchaser of a homestead will be required to make a down payment of \$500, with a purchase contract calling for amortized payments of the balance owing over a period of 20 years.

The New Jersey College of Agriculture has been asked to cooperate in development of the project.

The Board of Directors will include a representative of the Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation. Five other Directors will be:

Benjamin Brown, New York City, one of the originators of the project, and for years the New York representative of the Utah and Idaho Poultry Co-operative Associations, and President of the Producers Distributing Agency, New York, a cooperative service agency.

Alfred Wallerstein, retired manufacturer.

Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, widely known leader in Jewish Divinity and social activities.

Elias Lieberman, Vice President of the Workman's Circle, a Jewish Fraternal Order with 88,000 members.

Numerous Jewish, social, industrial, labor, cooperative and fraternal organizations are assisting in the development of the project, which is one of a series of varied demonstration projects in subsistence farming being sponsored by the Subsistence Homesteads Division. Representatives of a group of these will meet Saturday night and Sunday at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York. M. L. Wilson, Director of the Subsistence Homesteads Division, will address the group Sunday.



Benjamin Brown

Benjamin Brown

By Jessica Hecht

Benjamin Brown was a man dedicated to the cause of the Jewish people – their hardships and troubles as Jews and as immigrants to the United States. This is his story and the story of the dream he set out to accomplish.

Brown was born and brought up in Russia. At the age of sixteen, in 1901, he immigrated to the United States. Having no education except for that which he received at Hebrew school in Russia, he worked at a menial job in a factory during the day, studying at night. He was determined at the time to enter college, so he attended the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, soon after which he entered Penn State College, intending to become an agricultural engineer. This field of study was his choice, for he saw agriculture as an important means of bettering and helping the Jewish people to help themselves. The condition of the Jews in Russia was insufferable at the time of Brown's childhood and throughout his lifetime. Their hardships and poverty were indeed very great. They received little, if any, education, which maintained their position on the bottom rung of the ladder. And – a great factor in their problems – they were forbidden to own any farmland. Benjamin Brown wanted to restore the dignity these people had been deprived of, as well as help them to lead better, productive lives.

After graduating from college, Brown joined the Jewish Agricultural and Colonial Association in New York, later becoming president. Under his leadership, the group established an agricultural colony in Utah, known as Clarion. While in Utah, Brown became involved with many Zionist agricultural movements. From 1916-1922, he was a director of the Piute Reservoir and Irrigation Project. In 1921, he began working on the organization of another cooperative. By 1922, under his direction, the Utah Poultry Farmers Marketing Cooperative was on a statewide basis; Brown was Director-of-Markets and President of this co-op for a number of years. During all this time, he maintained his own New Jersey farm on what is now the Hechalutz Farm, raising livestock and various crops. In 1925, he went to the Midwest, where poultry conditions were terrible. He established a co-op with many of these poultry farmers and became manager of the marketing. So great was the help he gave these farmers that soon their organization numbered in the thousands. He then moved his headquarters to New York.

Because of his successes in agricultural administration, Brown was asked by Chaim Weizman, then president of the World Zionist Organization, to investigate agricultural possibilities in Israel, then called Palestine. He also did the same for the Jewish people in the summer of 1929 in Russia.

During the depression of the 30's millions became jobless. As a remedy for this situation, President Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration. Under the Secretary of the Interior, the W.P.A. began to open up homestead projects to provide the jobless with jobs and homes. These homesteads coincided somewhat with Brown's idea of starting a cooperative community. He presented his idea to the government and, with the help of the Sec. of Agriculture, the ideas were accepted. In 1933 Brown was appointed Chairman of the Board of Sponsors and Advisers of the Jersey Homesteads Project.

The plan for the Jersey Homesteads Project was to have an independent and cooperative community. There was to be a garment factory, as most of the New York immigrant Jews were needleworkers of some sort, and two hundred homes, with two-thirds of the people working in the factory. There were to be approximately a half dozen farmers (including dairy, poultry ranches, and vegetable farms), a general store, roads, elementary school, a sewage system, and other public facilities. Each family was to make a capital investment of \$500.

The town was started with an initial investment of \$800,000 acquired from the government on the promise that it would be complete within three or four months. However, at the end of two years, the project was not nearly complete. Many problems and difficulties arose, so serious that the idea of a cooperative town had to be dropped. Brown financed the project personally toward the end, but to no avail. The project had failed, and had to be abandoned. The houses were rented to the occupants and the farms sold. The factory was rented to a private enterprise, and by 1950, it too was sold. With the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the name of the project was changed to Roosevelt, N.J., honouring the man who had helped Benjamin Brown so greatly. The school, the roads, the water works – all were transferred to the Borough by the government.

Benjamin Brown died in 1939. In spite of the failure of Brown's original idea, a very unique and different community has sprung from his and others' efforts. Although the town is not a cooperative as was intended, the people have maintained a cooperative spirit and a great pride in their community.

For many years the school's eighth grade students were required to write an essay on Benjamin Brown, founder of the community. This is one example .

Co-operative Factory
Opening Ceremony

אויפ'ן נייעם וועג



2,000 באטייליגען זיך ביי ערעפערונג
צערעמאניע פון האַיטסטאָון פאבריק

Cartoon from "The Day," Jewish newspaper, translated "2,000 take part in opening ceremony of Hightstown factory."

The Origins of Jersey Homesteads An Overview

By Michael L. Ticktin



When Franklin D. Roosevelt assumed the Presidency of the United States in early 1933, the country was in the midst of its greatest economic crisis, the Great Depression. Not surprisingly, the new administration was willing to consider any idea or proposal that might help in the enormous task of restoring prosperity and economic stability.

One sentiment that found widespread acceptance was that it would be a good idea to get as many people as possible out of the miserable conditions then existing in the cities and back to the land. One plan for doing this that found support in the new administration was for the creation of "subsistence homesteads", communities that would be largely self-sufficient in which, by cooperative efforts, the residents would satisfy their economic and social needs in the countryside.

The Subsistence Homesteads Program was authorized under Section 208 of the National Industrial Recovery Act. (This Act is better known for having authorized the establishment of the National Recovery Administration – or N.R.A. – whose symbol, the blue eagle, is used on our Borough stationery.) The first Director of the Division of Subsistence Homesteads in the Department of the Interior, Milburn L. Wilson, an agricultural economics expert from Montana, was influenced in his belief that the subsistence homesteads would provide a model for new and better forms of social organization by the communities which had been built by the Mormons in Utah which had, through cooperation, prospered in a harsh desert environment.

The Subsistence Homesteads Division, its successor the Resettlement Administration in the Department of Agriculture (under whose auspices Jersey Homesteads was completed), and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration built a total of 99 new communities containing 10,938 units. Among these, Jersey Homesteads was unique in three respects: it was the only agro-industrial cooperative, it was designed as a model for the larger greenbelt towns which were intended to embody the "garden city" concept of the great English planner Ebenezer Howard, and it was expressly designed as a settlement for European Jewish immigrants.

As a Jewish agro-industrial cooperative community, Jersey Homesteads represented the culmination of the life's work of Benjamin Brown. Brown came to America from Russia at the age of 16 in 1901. He was interested in rural cooperatives and, by 1919, had organized a poultry cooperative in central Utah and, by 1925, he was managing a distribution organization for western cooperatives in New York City. Seeing the conditions of Jewish garment workers in New York, he was convinced that their lives would be improved by relocation to rural cooperative communities.

In 1928, Brown was a member of an American delegation that went to the Soviet Union to provide technical assistance in agricultural distribution. Also in that delegation was none other than Milburn L. Wilson. Thus was established the contact that enabled Brown to transform his idea into reality when the times were right.

In June, 1933, Brown met with representatives of Jewish labor and community organizations to present his proposal. Out of this meeting came the Provisional Commission for Jewish Farm Settlements in the United States, with Brown as chairman. The Commission also included such prominent individuals as Rabbi Stephen Wise, Bureau of Labor Statistics Chief Isidor Lubin and, later, Albert Einstein. When the Subsistence Homesteads Program was announced, the Commission applied to Director Wilson for a \$500,000 loan to establish a community for 200 Jewish garment workers. The loan was approved in December, 1933 and the Commission, now the Board of Directors of a Government-owned corporation called Jersey Homesteads, Inc., bought the 1200 acres that are today the Borough of Roosevelt for \$96,000. (According to the incorporation papers of Jersey Homesteads, Inc., which are on file in the office of the New Jersey Secretary of State, the community was to have been called the Asifa Homesteads Community – Asifa being the Hebrew word for "harvest" or "gathering". Instead, however, the name of the corporation became the name of the community.)

In January, 1934, Jersey Homesteads, Inc. appointed Max Blitzer, a former assistant to the President of William and Mary College, as project manager. Applications for participation in the community were solicited through Jewish newspapers and organizations. Despite the \$500 payment required – a considerable sum in 1934 – 800 applications were received.

The project, however, began to run into difficulties. The cost of building the homes was substantially increased by the price-raising codes of the N.R.A. Cattle, which could have been purchased cheaply elsewhere in the country, could not be brought into New Jersey because of State laws. Then Brown and his associates lost actual control of the project when the Subsistence Homesteads Division took direct charge and Wilson resigned.

אינטערעסאנטע נייעס אין בילדער



אַט דאָס איז די ערשטע גרופע אידישע ארבייטער און זייערע פאמיליעס, וועלכע האבען זיך באזעצט אין דער האיטסטאון קאאפעראטיווער קאלאניע פֿאַר נאָרעל ארבייטער. די בילד איז גענומען געוואָרען ווען די ערשטע גרופע איז אָפּגעפֿאָהרן קיין האיטסטאָון.

THE FIRST SETTLERS AT HIGHTSTOWN, N. J.—Here are some of the first group of Bronx and Brooklyn families who left for the cooperative settlement at Hightstown, N. J., a colony built by the government. The houses will be occupied by needle workers, who'll also work in the same town.

By the fall of 1934, the Subsistence Homesteads Division had construction underway. Another major problem arose, however, which almost destroyed the project. Brown's plan had been for the garment factory, the economic base of the community, to be privately operated until such time as the homesteaders were ready to run it cooperatively. He realized that more was required for a successful cooperative than simply bringing a bunch of workers out to the country and telling them to cooperate, and he saw the need for a transition period.

David Dubinsky, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, however, would not agree to the removal of jobs from New York. The ILGWU was unalterably opposed to "runaway shops" leaving New York to go elsewhere and would not, despite the pleading of Einstein and others, make an exception even in this case where the workers would all be ILGWU members and a significant social experiment was at stake. (Dubinsky's reported comment to Einstein was, "When it comes to physics, you're the professor. When it comes to labor, I'm the professor.") When the ILGWU refused to cooperate, the Subsistence Homesteads Division stopped work on the project.

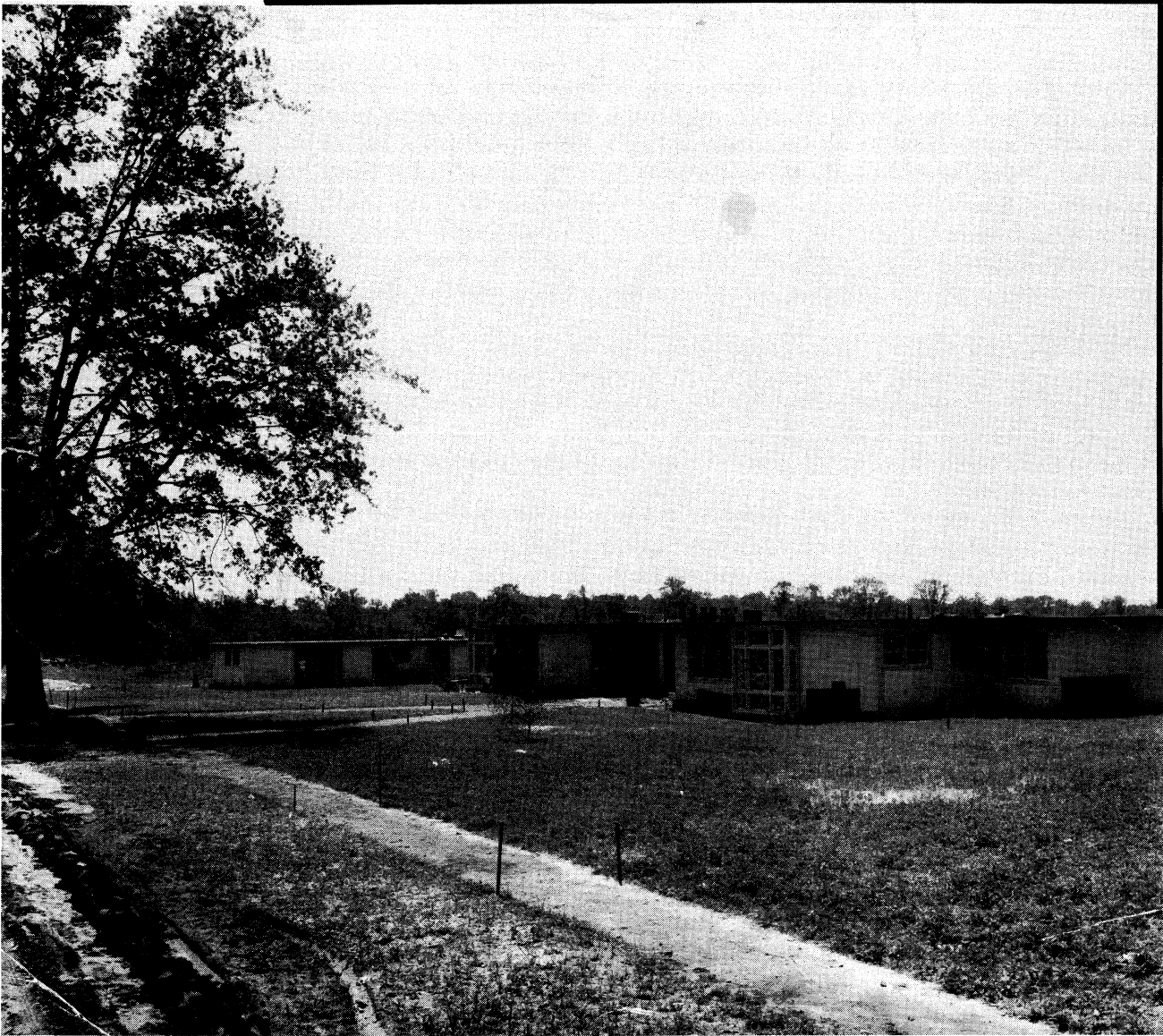
In May, 1935, the Subsistence Homesteads program was transferred to the Resettlement Administration, which was headed by Rexford Tugwell. Tugwell was a strong advocate of economic planning and planned communities and, under his leadership, the Resettlement Administration decided to proceed with Jersey Homesteads. It was Tugwell who decided to make Jersey Homesteads the prototype of the greenbelt towns that were to be the Resettlement Administration's major accomplishment. Indeed, the three greenbelt towns that were built - Greenbelt, Md. (890 units), Greendale, Wis. (640 units) and Greenhills, Ohio (737 units) - have town plans that show the same principles of clustering, open space organization and street design and facilities location found in Jersey Homesteads. Tugwell also intended to have buildings with cement slab walls as well as roofs built in Jersey Homesteads as a demonstration of their usability for the greenbelt towns.

Unfortunately, the first such building built here collapsed and cinder block was substituted for the walls. (The story sometimes told in Roosevelt to the effect that the Jersey Homesteads houses were "supposed to have been built in the southwest and Cape Cods built here and the plans got switched is totally without foundation, since Tugwell chose the design for the houses - the Bauhaus style developed by Walter Gropius and his followers in Weimar Germany, which emphasized functionalism and rectilinear design - and specifically designated Jersey Homesteads as the place in which they should be built.)

Construction resumed at Jersey Homesteads in August of 1935. Brown and Blitzer, who was still project manager, continued to be unable to reach an agreement with Dubinsky. On November 26, 1935, the Resettlement Administration announced that it would assume sole responsibility for the project, including the negotiations concerning the factory. Blitzer was dismissed and Brown, though recognized as the community leader, no longer had any control of the project. The Resettlement Administration was able to secure Dubinsky's approval for the project, however, so long as it would operate as a cooperative from the outset. The homesteaders, the 120 families that had paid \$500 to participate in the project, then organized the factory cooperative, which was called the Workers' Aim Association.

By May, 1936, the factory was completed and the first homes were nearing completion. On May 17, 1936, the first community picnic was held, as the homesteaders and their friends came out to see the project. On July 10, 1936, the first seven families moved in. On August 2, 1936, the factory was dedicated in a ceremony attended by 2,000 people. In his dedication speech, Benjamin Brown declared that the ideology behind Jersey Homesteads was not Communism

#17	September 3rd, 1935	1935
<i>Received</i>	from <u>Abe Topal</u>	
	-----Five hundred-----	<i>Dollars</i>
	To be deposited in a temporary Trust Fund for future investment in the Jersey Homestead Cooperatives. The above named investor reserves the right to withdraw this amount within 60 days from date.	
\$--500.00--	<i>Philip Goldstein Secy.</i>	<i>Ullman Buebelster Treas.</i>

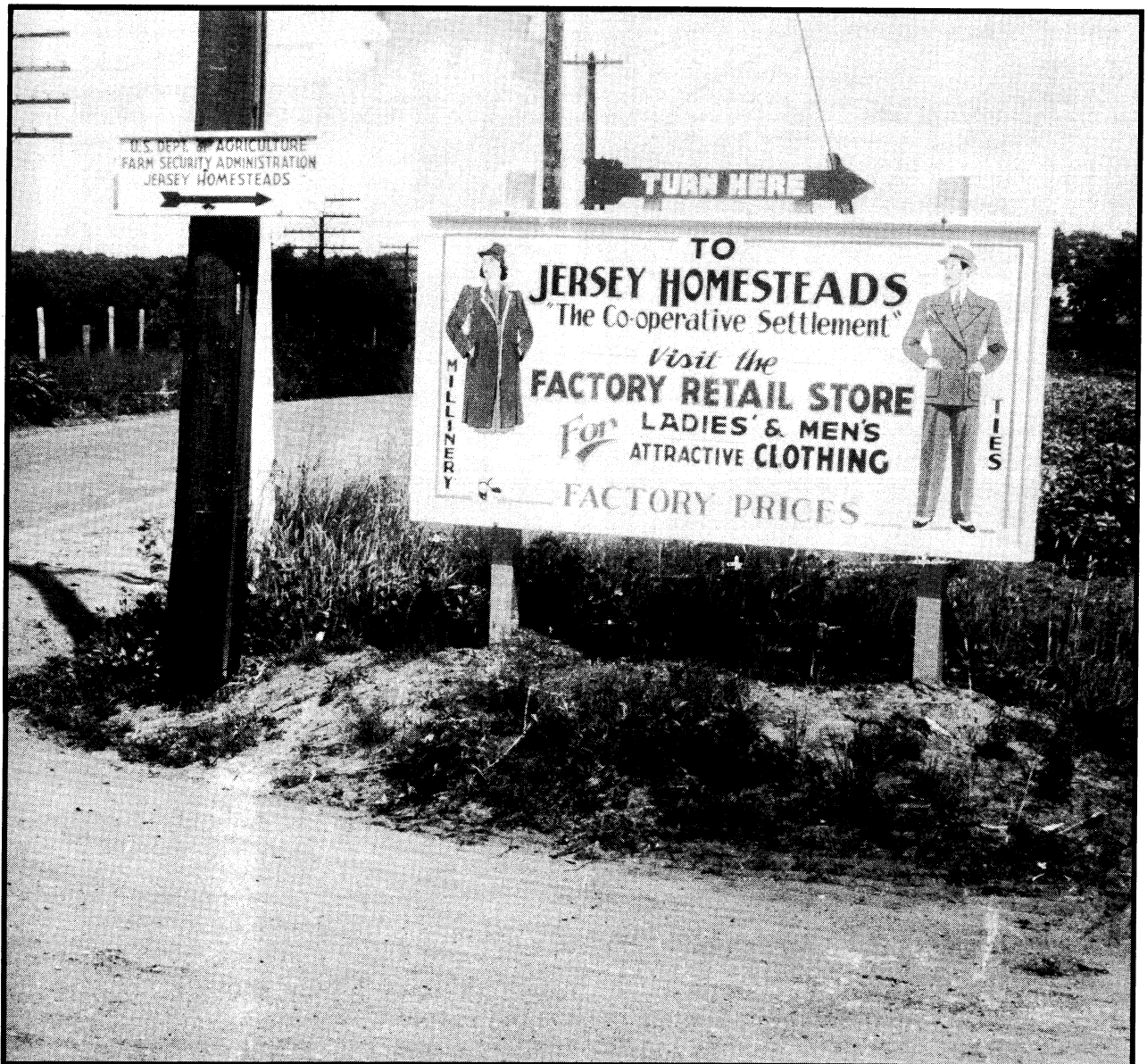


Early street scene. Notice the muddy streets and characteristic flat-topped Bauhaus-style homes.

(as some were then charging) but “common sense-ism”. The factory’s trade name would be “Tripod,” reflecting the community’s unique status as a “triple cooperative” of factory, farm and community stores. He predicted that the cooperative would achieve security and prosperity for its members based on craftsmanship and pride of achievement.

By the early part of 1937, all of the Jersey Homesteads houses were completed. On May 29, 1937, the Governor signed into law an act establishing the Borough of Jersey Homesteads. (Formation of a separate municipality had not been an original objective and I recall having been told by the late Harry Katzenellenbogen, an original resident who was active in Borough life for many years, that the separation from Millstone was forced upon the community by Millstone residents who wanted nothing to do with this assembly of Jewish garment workers thrust into their midst. In other words, what Brown, Wilson and Tugwell saw as a great social innovation, and the homesteaders saw as an opportunity for security in a pleasant environment, the other residents of Millstone saw only as Paradise lost.)

As is well-known, the cooperatives did not last. The inability of people to adopt the attitudes and patterns of behavior necessary to make cooperatives work, the selection process that virtually excluded younger people who might have been more flexible and adaptable, the lack of good management, and the difficult economic times are all factors that have been cited to explain the failure. Yet, despite the failure of the original plan, it is generally agreed that Jersey Homesteads, both before and after it became Roosevelt, has been remarkably successful as a community. In 1941, despite the economic failure, a survey found the residents quite happy with the community, with most people participating in organizations and having many friends in the community. It is this sense of community, fostered as it is by a physical plan that gives everyone pleasant surroundings and enough space without imposing isolation, which is perhaps the most enduring legacy of Jersey Homesteads to the Roosevelt which now celebrates its Jubilee.



Costly Delays Weighing Upon Tugwell's Hightstown Fiasco

Homes Not Ready Though Eight Families Were Due Yesterday—Model House Plant Is Now Being Dismantled.

By EDMUND DE LONG.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

HIGHTSTOWN, N. J., July 9.—Here in the tranquil New Jersey countryside, with the broiling summer sun beating down on the flat cement roofs of Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell's experimental co-operative town, the New Deal is having some rough going.

In spite of the utopian dreams of the town's sponsors and the stout-hearted contentions of its publicity corps, the wheels of the Resettlement Administration's complicated machinery have clogged, causing confusion and a considerable measure of resentment.

From the inception of this pretentious project, designed to bring the more abundant life to 200 garment workers and their families, Dr. Tugwell's ballyhoo unit has labored manfully to send the impression abroad that all has been functioning like clockwork, but such has never been the case. Delays have occurred and extravagances have mounted. Probably no one knows what the ultimate cost to the taxpayers will be, for the most cursory survey reveals that it will exceed the original estimate by thousands of dollars.

Questions Are Parried.

Back from the broad dirt road which leads into the rural fastness from the nearest concrete highway, rises the prize white elephant. No one talks of it, and questions concerning its once vaunted utilitarian purpose are parried. Two months ago The Sun's reporter asked what was to become of it—this \$3,000,000 factory built to the accompaniment of great Tugwellian trumpeting and fanfare, to turn out model houses on a mass production basis—and now he has his answer. The elephant is to be removed from its pedestal of triumph. It is to be torn down and forgotten as far as the New Deal is concerned. Already the dismantling has started.

A bit disconsolately, the visitor permits his eyes to rove over the landscape, absorbing the details of the small, flat-roofed, cellarless homes in which the hopes and dreams of the chosen two hundred are centered. They dot the surrounding countryside, seemingly identical, although there are fifteen designs. One is inclined to speculate on how they will appear once they are inhabited.

Some are nearing completion, but they are not so near completion as Dr. Tugwell's publicity boys would have one believe. And there lies the hitch which has started some grumbling.

Families Did Not Arrive.

The big day was to have been yesterday when eight families were scheduled to arrive from New York with their bags, baggage, children and household cats. It was to have been a red-letter day for Tugwell Town with Dr. Rexford Guy on hand, in person, to extend the palm of welcome.

But Dr. Tugwell did not arrive, and neither did the eight families. The doctor hurried to the drought regions, where votes are going to count this fall, while the families remained in their tenement surroundings to make peace with their landlords according to their individual ingenuity. Dr. Tugwell assigned seemingly adequate reasons for his journey West, but there were other reasons, perhaps, why the Tugwellian presence did not grace Monmouth county's rolling countryside. These are to be found in the fact that the houses even now are not ready for human habitation. No stoves for one thing. For persons accustomed to eating their meat and vegetables cooked this had its plausible drawbacks.

Now they are hoping that the stoves can be installed by tomorrow, Saturday or early next week. Then will the clarion notes float forth, but not until then. In the meantime, tuck in the lower lips, boys, and make the best of it.

Factory Also Unfinished.

To the left, as one approaches the utopian reservation sits the needlework factory, modern to the last inch of its shining surfaces, elegant and highly reminiscent of a massive greenhouse. It isn't finished either, but the boys on the job are exerting every effort to get it ready.

It isn't ready in the next ten days or so it will be too late to start work on next season's garments, and to garment workers hopeful of earning a living through their co-operative endeavors the prospect of any delay has an ominous ring. Such an eventuality would hardly be construed as being in the nature of a roaring start.

The optimists around the reservation are relying on their horseshoes

and rabbits' feet to pull them through, but even in the happiest of circumstances a few dark clouds still mar the horizon. It is going to require more than eight workmen to get the wheels in motion, so what about the others? Where will they live? On this point there appeared to be a variety of views, one being that the extras would probably board around the countryside.

Extra Help a Problem.

How much extra help will be necessary is a matter of conjecture. The question of whether or not men comfortably settled with their families in New York will be willing to move here before their prospective homes are ready and seek lodgings in Hightstown, four miles away, or in neighboring farmhouses, providing the farmers are willing to share their homes, is one which will draw its full quota of doubters.

Two hundred homes will be ready some time, but when? That is the question of the moment.

Each homesteader is paying \$500, and the cost of the project, as originally outlined, was to be \$1,800,000. This, of course, was not to include the overhead of Dr. Tugwell's office.

On the basis of an actual cost of \$2,000,000, which is still considered too low a figure by most building authorities, the cost is \$10,000 a family.

How It Figures Out.

Since the tenants all pay \$500 down, this leaves \$9,500 owed to the Government. Let the following table speak for itself and, therefore, to the taxpayer:

Interest at 5 per cent on \$9,500.....	\$475
Taxes	100
Amortization at 3 per cent on \$9,500.....	285
Total	\$860

Rent at \$24 per month..... \$288

Annual loss per family..... \$572

If this, then, model housing? Let the taxpayer answer. Let him consider the ultimate outcome if Dr. Tugwell's ideas extended to the rest of the country in the same ratio.

Let him consider, too, the lesson offered by the \$3,000,000 plant now being dismantled.

Heralded by Dr. Tugwell and his associates as being a forward step which would revolutionize the building industry and bring model homes within the range of the masses, it was suddenly abandoned when it was found that the basic patents on the process to be used in turning out homes like hotcakes were held by Simon Lake, the engineer and submarine designer.

Mr. Lake graciously helped Mr. Tugwell and his associates out of their predicament by offering them the use of his patents, but by then some one had a different idea. Some one had purchased 100,000 cinder blocks and the orders had been issued to go ahead with this type of construction, even though the expense involved was far greater. Such being the orders, the construction work has proceeded, but with what delays and at what expense to the taxpayers.

Jersey Homesteaders Giving Thanks

Harvest Profit \$17,000 and Factory Output Is in Demand



New community store at Jersey Homesteads project at Hightstown does flourishing business. Above, left to right, Mrs. Abe Topal and Mrs. Sarah Notterman buy Thanksgiving provisions from Nathan Dubin, official butcher and storekeeper of colony. Below at right, William Singer, Newark veteran, looks happy as he handles shock of corn on community farm. Farm showed handsome profit in first season of operation.

By E. B. Berlinrut.

HIGHTSTOWN, Nov. 21. — Their first Thanksgiving Day!

A year, two years ago—this holiday of America's Pilgrim pioneers was meaningless for them. From the squalor of tenements where most of them lived and in dingy factories where their men worked, how could they conjure up pictures of the bounties of America's soil and forests, of her richness in opportunity?

But now!

With all the fervor and gratitude the earlier pioneers knew, 50 modern settler families—200 persons—will celebrate their first Thanksgiving in the Jersey homesteads colony here Thursday.

Causes for Thanks.

They will give thanks for the amazing harvest their 414-acre community farm has yielded for the season—a net profit equivalent to \$17,000.

They will offer thanks for the success promised in the first three months of operation of their co-operative garment factory.

They will give thanks for the success which has greeted opening of



their community-owned store; for their warm, comfortable, sunny homes; for the herd of cows and flock of chickens they are about to receive; for the new farm machinery they have bought; for the tons of corn in the community cribs; for the health they have enjoyed in the out-of-doors; and, most of all, for their freedom from individual economic worry and for the excellent prospects for community prosperity which face them.

Take William Singer, former New-

arker, for example. See what he has to be thankful for.

A World War veteran, he has a wife and two boys, seven and 12. Before coming here he lived in a dreary, dark flat on Court street. He had been a long time without steady employment and food was scarce.

Mr. Singer is not a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, as are most others in the colony. His youth was spent on a

Continued on Page 14, Column 7.

Homesteaders Find Causes for Thanks

Continued From First Page.

farm. When he heard of the Jersey Homesteads, a co-operative colony which the United States government proposed to found, he applied for admittance as a farmer.

The only obstacle—raising the \$500 which must be paid into the common fund before any one became a member of the community—he solved by using his veteran's bonus when it arrived. He had served overseas two years.

Now he lives in a five-room, modern attractive house of his own. It is heated by warm air in winter, cooled in summer. It has windows—wide ones and many of them. It has an electric refrigerator. Behind the house lies an acre of ground in which he may raise vegetables or flowers.

He pays \$24 a month for his home—and this amount, eventually, will pay for it. The government is his mortgagor. He earns a salary which is modest, but permits him to pay "rent," buy plenty of food from the community store and have enough left for other living costs and a small weekly saving.

"It's Wonderful Here."

Happy? "Things here are wonderful," his wife said yesterday. "The house is so nice I can hardly believe it's really ours. All the sunshine and the fresh air—we enjoy it as much as the children."

Mr. Singer: "Gee! It should have been started 20 years ago."

All families at the colony are Jewish because most of the needle trades workers in the New York area are of that faith. Gentile families were included in the list originally invited to join, but none accepted.

The colony is designed to house 200 families with a total population of 1,000. The 150 houses still to be occupied are now under construction. The next batch will be completed early next year. There are approximately 800 applicant families. The community is already self-subsistent and every indication is that it will ultimately be able to repay the government building and other costs to which it was put.

Another Newark family at the colony is that of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lipsky. They formerly lived in the third floor at 407 Badger avenue with their child. Mr. Lipsky is one of the half-dozen farmers in the colony. His wife, Rose, 26, attended South Side and Central High schools in Newark.

"Completely Satisfied."

"We're completely satisfied," Mrs. Lipsky said. "The life is different from what we've been accustomed to, although my husband worked on a farm when he was a boy. The homes are delightful. What do we do with

our evenings? It's hard to explain—we don't seem to have enough of them. We visit with neighbors, attend community meetings, read, listen to the radio. The time flies."

Among the group waiting to get in is Julius Kessler of 85 Hillside avenue, Newark. He is a finisher in the garment factory. He lives in the community boarding house during the week and on weekends visits his family in Newark. He hopes to obtain one of the 150 houses now under construction in the 1,250-acre resettlement tract.

Throughout the community spirits and morale are extremely high. The loan of approximately \$18,000 for seeds and farm equipment with which the colony farm was established has just been paid off in full to the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Because potatoes, tomatoes and other commodities brought an unusually high price this year the colony was able, after paying the loan, to buy \$6,000 worth of machinery, deposit nearly \$7,000 in its fund and keep on hand \$4,000 worth of corn fodder.

Dairy Is Planned.

Negotiations are under way to buy a herd of 75 Holstein and Guernsey cows and more than 2,000 chickens. This dairy will give the farmers something to do in winter and will provide cheaper milk, butter and eggs for the colony.

So good are prospects for the colony that Public Service, after investigating thoroughly, decided to run a five-mile pipe line to bring gas to the community for cooking purposes. This represents a substantial investment by Public Service and is considered evidence of that corporation's faith in the soundness of the project.

By next summer the colonists expect to have a canning factory, where they will be able to can their tomatoes and other produce.

Sentiment in neighboring communities, which at first was inclined to be hostile, has undergone a change. The colony residents, it is now felt, will be good neighbors. Furthermore, their presence promises to raise real estate values in the area.

Boris Drasin, president of the Workers' Aim Co-operative Association, which is made up of colonists and controls policies and activities of the colony, said yesterday:

Factory's Prospects Bright.

"We could not possibly have expected better things. It is only too bad our factory couldn't have begun operation earlier, because we had a number of orders to fill.

"Our showroom in New York and our salesmen are having great success. Our factory pays union wages, and we work a 35-hour week. Our clothing is being sold not because it is cheap, but because of its quality of workmanship. I believe we will be rushed next year. We are working on spring samples now.

"Our people are happy and hopeful. Our first Thanksgiving here will be a very full one."



FRANK DURAND
PRESIDENT
SEA GIRT, N. J.

NEW JERSEY SENATE

April 19, 1937

Mr. Philip Coldstein
President, Jersey Homesteads Civic
Association
Hightstown, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Coldstein:

The bill to incorporate the Borough of Jersey Homesteads has been reported from Committee favorably and I expect to bring it before the Senate for a vote at the session on April 19th.

Should it be passed by the Senate, it will go to the Assembly for their immediate consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Durand".

Frank Durand

FD:B

Library

HOMESTEADER JERSEY HOMESTEADER

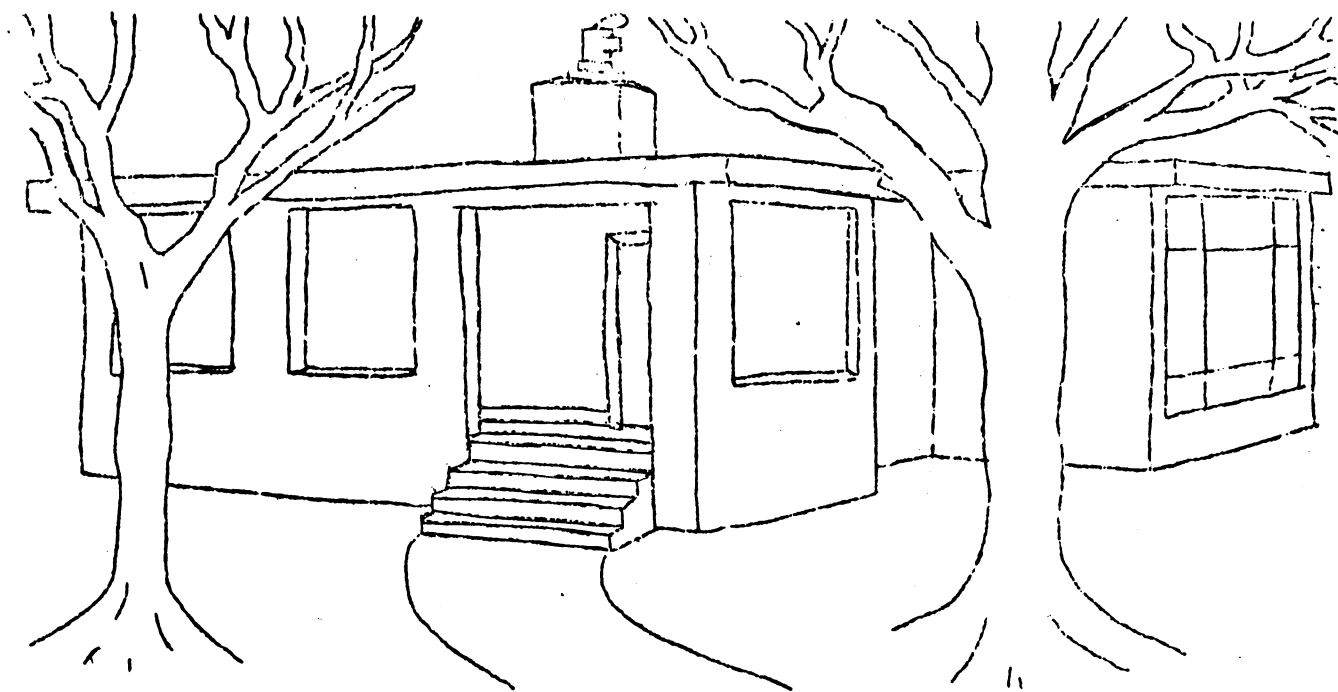
VOLUME 1 NO. 1

FIVE



CENTS

FEB. 14, 1937



DEDICATED TO THE COOPERATIVE
COMMUNITIES OF THE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

J E R S E Y H O M E S T E A D E R

Published twice a month at
Jersey Homesteads, N. J.

- Editors -

Irving Bach
Sidney Gushen
Oscar Misnevitz



Sunday, February 14, 1937

With this first issue of the combined Senior, Junior, and Juvenile papers, a promising cultural program begins to bloom. The history of the Jersey Homesteads will at last be perpetuated in a newspaper that will be worthy of its reputation. A satisfactory mixture of the two languages, Yiddish and English, will be worked out in the near future to make facts understandable to all, regardless of their reading abilities.

We heartily welcome individual or group contributions, announcements, articles of current interest (?), fiction stories, etc.

Please address all or any contributions to anyone on the Editorial Staff.

* * * * *

! Notice !

Homesteaders are urged to contribute to the Red Cross fund for flood relief purposes. Donations can be sent through the Editors of this paper.

Let all Homesteaders be proud of the fact that our industrial co-op, WACA, has been able to do its part in helping to relieve the distress in the flooded regions by sending out West ~~many~~ winter coats.

YOU CAN'T STOP AND GO FORWARD

We are too late to cheer many of the Homesteaders on to a good start in a new mode of living, due to the fact that the colony is already one-half year in existence, but we can and will cheer you on to keep up the splendid undertakings that you have begun, that is, the farm, the factory, and the commissary. Don't let your enthusiasm be slowed up by some unimportant happenings. Just keep up the good work.

Two executives were discussing a big business problem one day; they had an opportunity to dispose of their holdings at a profit and escape difficulties which threatened to reduce their returns unless properly met and overcome. If overcome, their returns would be greater than ever. One of the executives, hearing the hum of an airplane, looked up and his first thought solved their problem. This was his mental reaction to the glimpse of the airplane:

"What a sad fix that flyer would be in if he stopped right now. He has plenty to worry about no matter how easily he appears to be drifting along, but he must keep on going or crash."

This story is a true one.

The other fellow's business always looks easiest and most appealing, especially if it's successful. But every line of endeavor, whether it is selling groceries, farming, fixing automobiles, making coats, banking, or publishing a newspaper, brings worries and troubles, temporary losses, difficulties and fears, trials and tribulations. If one stops in mid-air just because there is a black cloud ahead, he is truly in a sad fix, and it is he who takes a hard fall.

Going forward, refusing to stop, bring the pleasures of enterprise: character, respect of neighbors and friends, an ever-brightening future, true friendships, and the courage to keep on plugging in the face of great difficulties.

YOU CAN'T STOP AND GO FORWARD

בון ילום עליכם פאלקשול 18

שבס נאכט דער 16 יאנואר איז אין אונזער פאבריק געפראוועט געווארן א גאר אייגנארטוקן אופ די אפיציעלע דערפענונג פון דאר שלום עליכם פאלקשול 18 און אונזער ישוב.

א גרויסע צאל געסט, טוער און לערער פון די ניו-יארקער און פערט-עמפי שלום עליכם שולן, דאר בעוועזענער פרעזידענט פון שלום עליכם פאלקאינסטיטוט חבר בערג. אין דאר סעקרעטער פון אינסטיטוט חבר בושאזא, זינען אלע ספעציעל געקומען צו דעם יום-טוב. א גאר חשובער גאסט איז געווען דער גרויסער אידישער דיכטער אבאם ריזען. פארזיצער פון אונט איז געווען חבר פינקלער וועלכער האט יעדן פון די רעדנער פארנעשטעלט אויפ איין אייגנארטיקן אופן צווישן די רעדנער זינען געווען חבר בושזע, חבר בערג, אברהם ריזען, מאפעסער, יאפע, ב. בראון און צו לעצט דער לערער פון שול חבר י. מ. גולדמאן.

דער פארזיצער איז פארגעשטעלט געווארן פון פארזיצער פון דער שול פארונאלטאר חבר רובינשטיין.

און דער פראגראם האבן זיך באטייליקט און דער באוואוסטאר פארליינער אין אימפראוויזאטאר אל הערים און חבר בארקין, זינגער. דער אולם האט פארפראכט ביי שיינ געזעקטע מיטן. וועלכע זינען צוגעגרייט געווארן פון אונזערע שול חברטעס.

ס עט זיין דער נאכט איז דער עולם היימוקאנונגן. בארענדינג זיך דעם עינע מיט דעם קאמפראמיטן ליד פון דער קאלאניע.

* * * * *

Hot-- News--

The modern trend of women to seek a place in the sun on her own merits was recently brought to light by Fire Chief Irving Plungian. Mrs. Chasan, wife of the efficient trucking executive of the Homesteads, has enlisted along with 17 other firemen.

Post Office -

The regular hours of the Jersey Homesteads Post Office were recently given out by lovely Miss Sylvia Shaken, the Homesteads' efficient postmistress. Miss Shaken requests that colonists call early for their mail, and not let it accumulate in the pigeonholes.

The post office is open -

Weekdays 12 to 1, & 4 to 5:30
Saturdays 11:30 to 1

* * * * *

Commissary -

The Commissary is located in House #102, home of Mr. N. Dubin and family. It takes up the entire garage and storage room of the house, and more room is very necessary to help the present crowded conditions. Since the accommodations are limited, Homesteaders are urgently requested not to tarry too long in the store.

The store is open -

Weekdays 8 AM to 6 PM
Friday 8 AM to 3 PM
Saturday 6 PM to 10 PM
Sunday 8 AM to 12 noon

* * * * *

Bus Service -

Time table-

Weekday trips from the Homesteads -

9:30 1:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 11

Weekday trips from Hightstown -

10:30 1:45 5 6:45 9:30 11:30

Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays -

8:45 9:30 1:30 2 4:30

5 6:30 8:30 11

Fees-

10¢ per person one way, children under twelve, 5¢. Special trips, other than scheduled, \$1.00

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

S.2021 L.13

November 16, 1935.

CAUTION! This letter, while evidencing an appointment as of the date thereof, is not to be accepted as a credential for operating. Any person approached by the holder is entitled, on demand, to view his regular Administration credential in the form of a badge or a current identification card.

Mr. Oscar Nisnevitz,

Division of Suburban Resettlement

Dear Sir:

You are hereby notified that you have been appointed to the position of **Field Timekeeper EO-4** in the

Division of Suburban Resettlement of the Resettlement Administration,

at a salary of \$ **1440** per annum, effective **November 16, 1935,**

for a period of three months, to terminate not later than February 15, 1936.

You are required to take the oath of office immediately, and fill out the personal history sheet, enclosed herewith, and return the same (through the Chief of Division) to the Chief, Division of Appointments.

You will report for duty in **writing.**

By direction of the Administrator:

Respectfully,

Station: **Hightstown, N.J.**

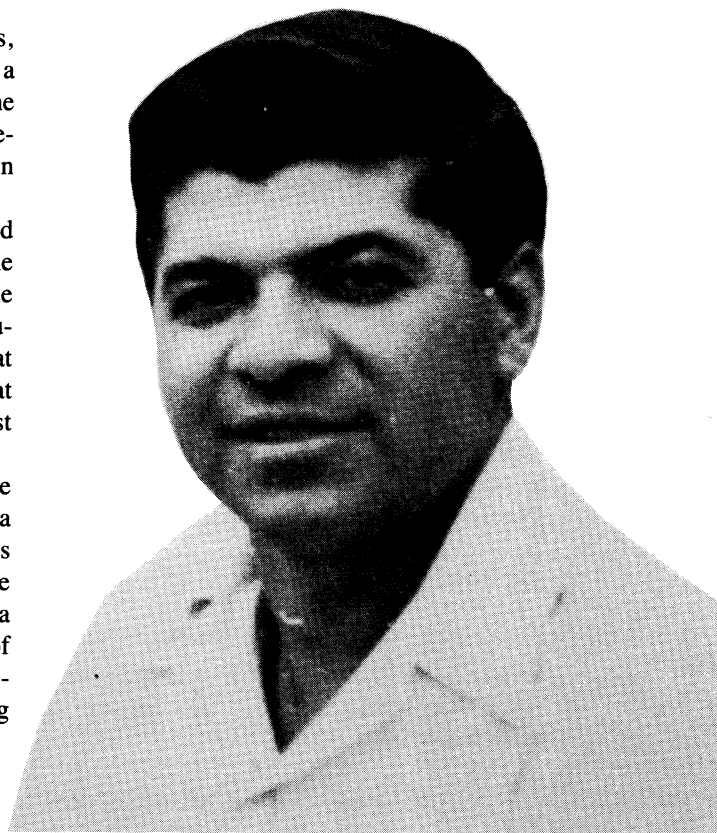
Legal Residence: **N.J.** Chief, Appointment SECTION
C.S. Authority:

Oscar Nisnevitz

One of Jersey Homestead's more active residents, Private First Class Oscar Nisnevitz, died in a Japanese prison camp in 1943. Oscar, 29 when he died, had earlier held several positions in the resettlement project before he left to serve his country in June, 1941.

Among his government positions were Field Timekeeper and Maintenance Supervisor for the town. In addition, he had been a member of the Borough Council and Secretary of the Board of Education. It was this strong commitment to the town that led Oscar to earn a degree in civil engineering that would help him in his position as the town's first water and sewer engineer.

Oscar's family learned in January, 1943 that he was being held prisoner in the Philippine Islands. In a post card datemarked February, 1943, Oscar told his family that "I am well." However, final word came from the State Department in July informing Anna and Samuel Nisnevitz that their son had died of malaria. Oscar was the only resident of Jersey Homesteads to have given his life for his country during World War II.



Pvt. Sidney Gushen Writes Of Oscar Nisnevitz Who Died as a Jap Prisoner

Pvt. Sidney Gushen, former mayor of Jersey Homesteads, is attached to Post Surgical Hospital, Ward 53, Fort Dix. He has written your foreign correspondent the following letter:

"I have just received word that one of my very best friends from Jersey Homesteads has been 'killed in action.' The last word we had concerning him was that he was taken prisoner by the Japs when Corregidor fell.

"He was in the Engineers in the Philippines at the time war broke out. The Red Cross recently notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nisnevitz, that he was alive and well as a Japanese captive.

Was 'Perfect Man'

"Full details as to Oscar Nisnevitz' death are apparently not available thus far, but he must have been either killed or died in an internment camp.

"He was about 29 and a graduate of C. C. N. Y. and Rutgers, specializing

in engineering. He was the government engineer at Jersey Homesteads from 1936 until his induction in the armed forces in 1941.

"I am writing this letter to you in order that you might revere his memory by telling the people in the vicinity about him—about his courage, intelligence, intellectual honesty, fearlessness. He was almost a perfect man—as perfect as I've yet come across. He was always willing to help another, to see another's point of view, to do his best for his country.

To Avenge His Death

"Because of the importance of his work at the Homesteads, many of us voluntarily wanted to ask the draft board for a deferment for him. But he turned it down flat—refusing to seek a deferment, wanting to do everything he could for his land. And it looks as though he has given his life.

"It is one thing to be killed in battle but quite another to be killed when a prisoner of the Japs. Everyone who knew Oscar Nisnevitz is itching to avenge his death, and the time will surely come when we can do so."

JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS
3d DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE:
NATIONAL 3120
EXT. 783

COMMITTEES:
RIVERS AND HARBORS
WORLD WAR VETERANS' LEGISLATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 5, 1945

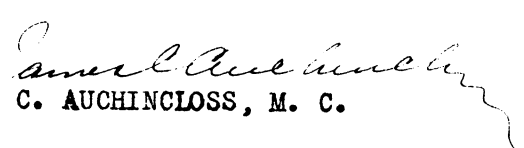
The Honorable Jacob Rearson
Mayor, Jersey Homesteads
Jersey Homesteads, New Jersey

My dear Mayor Rearson:

Enclosed are a few clippings from the Congressional Record of June 4, in which you will find the resolutions recently adopted by the Mayor and Council of Jersey Homesteads.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,


JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS, M. C.

A:fg
Enclosure

works for his country, prays for their safe return, but does this in the closet. He is a tither and gives 10 percent of his earnings to God's Kingdom, yet he does not have his name on the envelope; he realizes that any charity with the name signed to it is not charity. He does what he can for all public functions without attracting attention. He is the average man after all—the real hero not receiving recognition. This man is truly God's nobleman.

God Almighty will not look us over for medals, worldly recognition, or acclaim, but He will look for soars. Have we suffered? Have our hearts been wounded? This average man receives no applause as he marches, no applause at the close of some statement which is sound wisdom. He does not want it. Whether in the trench, the work shop, the farm, whether a little mother caring for the household—they crave no worldly plaudits. The average man has no press agent—he avoids rather than seeks publicity. Whether at home, abroad, in battle, or in civilian duty, "he carries the message to Garcia." No letter to his Government is written by him asking "What about me and mine?" He just thinks, "What can I give to my God and my country?" Yet he has not only been forgotten but has been scolded. Chain speakers, chain writers, and the heads of those who are seeking publicity have created for him a most harrowing experience. He is waking up. Some day his voice will be heard.

I am attaching hereto an editorial written by a man who dares to speak and who speaks with a zeal for righteousness forged into white heat. I now have the pleasure to have it inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which I hope will be read by every student of Government in this country, as well as other countries.

THE SILENT AMERICAN SOON WILL BE HEARD

There is a man in this country who seldom speaks up. He eats, sleeps, works, votes, and pays taxes, but his voice is usually as silent as the falling of the dew. He should be the most powerful man in the country, yet he says little. He listens to others, praises what he likes and condemns what he does not like—to his limited cluster of associates, yet his voice is never heard on the floor of Congress or the State assembly. He wins our wars and pays for them. He spends sleepless nights worrying about his debts and whether he can send his son away to school. He cuts his own lawn, repairs the family vacuum cleaner, washes his car, and paints the back fence.

He is the average American.

When elections come he votes, more often at the November polls than at the primaries. He scans the ticket, puzzled over a lot of names with which he is not familiar. He does the best he can. But there is not much choice. The political parties have put up their favorite candidates. Any way he votes he turns his Government over to organized political machines. After election day he goes home to see what will happen. Nothing does, so he goes back to the shop or office and obscurity.

He is told what he can buy, how far he can drive his car, and what he can eat. When he gets his pay check the Government already has taken out a generous slice. He has read in the newspaper that the war is costing untold billions. But he does not complain. It is patriotic to pay taxes, especially for a war. His life, in spite of the freedoms he is told he enjoys, is hardly his own. There

doesn't seem much he can do about it. So he keeps on working, eating what he can get, and paying his taxes.

Some day he will insist upon being all he has been told he is—a free citizen. He will insist upon his privileges being restored. He will insist upon a voice. He will break the silence. He will demand his rights—his freedoms in such a way that they cannot be disputed.

He is told before national elections that he is as important as the President when he walks into a voting booth. It makes him feel good. The day after election, he knows this is not true. It was merely political salve on his vanity.

He is getting a little tired of a government so far away running all of the small details of this every-day life. He is getting to throw the whole thing out the window as soon as the Japs give up. He wants to be his own voice. And some day not too far away he is going to do it.

You know him. He is the man who sits next to you on the bus. He lives across the street. You meet him in the elevator with a last year's straw hat. He stands in line with you for cigarettes, shines his own shoes, and uses a razor blade almost a week.

His political harness is beginning to chafe. He is preparing to cut the straps and make himself known. His ancestors pitched the tea into Boston Bay in the Revolution; they fell in Gettysburg and in Cuba. He is ready to break loose and be himself again.

He is the average American.

**Resolution of the Mayor and Council of
Jersey Homesteads, N. J.**

**EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF**

HON. JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 4, 1945

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the permission granted me, I append herewith a set of resolutions recently adopted by the mayor and Council of the Borough of Jersey Homesteads which would change its name to Roosevelt in memory our late President. This community was founded some years ago by the Federal Government and is now operated under the control of the National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority. This proposal is most appropriate, because it was due to the efforts of the late President that the homes in this community were made possible.

BOROUGH OF JERSEY HOMESTEADS,
Jersey Homesteads, N. J.

Resolution adopted by mayor and borough council at meeting held May 14, 1945

Whereas on April 12, 1945, a war-stricken world learned with tragic suddenness of the untimely death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of this Nation; and

Whereas this Nation and the world have lost one of its greatest leaders of all time, who had unselfishly devoted his health and his life to their cause; and

Whereas as President of this great Nation, he led this country through its most severe economic crisis and reestablished American faith in the future; and

Whereas as a result of his program for rehabilitation came about the creation of our

community and many hundreds of others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Jersey Homesteads, That in honor and out of respect to the memory of our great leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, we change the name of our borough to Roosevelt; and be it further

Resolved, That the borough clerk is hereby instructed to have this decision put on the ballot of the forthcoming election, to be held November 6, 1945; and be it further

Resolved, That the borough clerk is hereby further instructed to send copies of this resolution to the Representative of our district, the Honorable JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS, and to the Senators of our State, the Honorable ALBERT W. HAWKES and the Honorable H. ALEXANDER SMITH.

Approved:

JACOB N. REARSON,
Mayor.

Attest:

JEANNE G. REARSON,
Borough Clerk.



New Deal's Co-operative Colony in N.J. on Its Own After 10 Years

Families May Buy Own Homes, But Not as Government Planned Roosevelt Citizens Happy at Prospects, Feeling Survival Rebukes Critics

By KENNETH FIESTER

HIGHTSTOWN—A little community of 800 persons a few miles outside here, the New Deal's first experiment in co-operative effort for depressed industrial workers, is approaching both its 10th anniversary and freedom from government ownership. Citizens of Roosevelt—a referendum changed the name last year from Jersey Homesteads—are happy over both prospects. They feel a decade of survival has rebuked the project's critics; the government's departure will mean the culmination of their 10-year dream of really owning the homes they occupy.

Admittedly, Roosevelt hasn't turned out the way it was planned by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, a long-dead and half-forgotten member of the New Deal alphabetical array. This is a summary of a prospectus issued in 1936, after the area had been taken over by the Resettlement Administration.

The project was to be an agricultural-industrial co-operative, self-subsistent and self-liquidating. Each of 200-family heads was to invest \$500; 160 were to work in a clothing factory included in the project, 25 were to run a 414-acre farm and dairy, and 15 were to be service workers, such as store clerks, carpenters and plumbers.

'Share and Share Alike'

The settlers were to form a co-operative association, which would own the factory, the farm and all else in the community. "Surplus earnings" were to be distributed share and share alike. Eventually the government's mortgage would be paid off, individuals would own their houses and the group would own the factory, farms and stores.

Unfortunately there not only weren't "surplus earnings"; there were not enough earnings to meet expenses. By 1940 the co-operative had disintegrated, the government had foreclosed, the factory was leased to a hat manufacturer and the homes rented to their occupants.

But according to residents, co-operation still continued. If interest in community affairs is a criterion, they certainly are right.

For example, in the recent primary elections, 257 out of a total registry of 412 voted—240 as Democrats and 17 as Republicans. In a general election no more than a score fail to appear, and in Presidential years abstentions have been as low as two. Borough government is carried on through elected committeemen, but so great is public attendance that their sessions are virtually town meetings.

Homes to Cost More

This civic spirit is apparent in the community's appearance. The flat-topped, modern homes which seemed ugly when first built are now surrounded by handsome shrubs, flowers and well-kept gardens. The buildings are in excellent trim, streets are clean and the whole area has a well-ordered air. The average private landlord would be delighted at such tenants.

Exact terms of the sale of borough property haven't been determined. The various properties—homes range from four to seven rooms and plots from a quarter to a half acre—are now being appraised. But the change is sure to cost the residents more.

According to Irving Bach, borough clerk, police chief and one of two full-time borough employees, tenants now pay rents averaging \$17 a month to the Federal Public Housing Administration. In addition, they pay personal taxes to help support the borough government.

From rent receipts, FPHA contributes about \$21,000 a year to the Board of Education for the Roosevelt grade school and about \$6,000 to the borough government. Local taxes yield about \$1,500 for the school and \$3,500 for the borough. Miscellaneous receipts—franchise taxes, dog licenses and the like—bring in another \$5,500 for borough use.

Annual Deficit \$15,000

Rent receipts total about \$40,000 a year, according to Harry Glantz, project manager for FPHA. Thus there is about \$13,000 left over to operate the water and sewer works, maintain roads and houses, etc., all of which are done by the government in its capacity as landlord. Mr. Glantz estimates the annual deficit is \$15,000.

Residents will have to make up this difference, and in addition carry mortgages on their homes. But because Roosevelt is an articulate and active community, the residents are prepared for this.

"It is what we have been waiting for all these years," said Mrs. Boris Drasin. The Drasins, original settlers, are the parents of Tamara, USO singer killed during the war in the crash of the Lisbon Clipper.

"This place has become part of our lives," she went on. "Our whole interest has been in helping ourselves and our neighbors make a success here."

He, grandson, Daniel Drasin, interrupted. Daniel, three and one-half, is one of 70 children who have lived in the community all their lives.

"Come and see our garden," said Daniel. "These are beets, and these are radishes, and these are beans, and these are onions, and this is lettuce."

Like all Roosevelt youngsters, he was a picture of well-tanned health.

Volunteer Firewomen

Mrs. Augusta Chasan, who won national headlines by becoming a member of the volunteer fire department, agreed with Mrs. Drasin.

"Yes, the places look nice now," she said. "They look odd to us, too, in the beginning. But they look nice because we have put in years of hard work. We will be happy to buy them; we always knew we would, some day."

The Drasins and Chasans are among the 85 "pioneer" families still on the project. The "newcomers," most of whom have been residents half a dozen years or more have brought variety to the borough.

There are, for example, Ben Shahn, distinguished modern artist; Dr. Bernard Feld, atomic-bomb scientist; and William Margolis, a federal labor conciliator. A good many gentiles have settled in what was, at the start, an all-Jewish community.

The borough hopes to attract at least another factory—a clothing factory, for needleworkers still comprise the largest group of residents. It hopes to expand the co-operative market, and has good prospects; the market grosses \$2,500 a week. Some residents want a swimming pool; there was once a wading pool for children, but poor design (by the residents themselves) caused it to disintegrate.

Seek to Please Neighbors

Relations between Roosevelt residents and the conservatives who are the overwhelming majority in surrounding communities have sometimes been strained. But according to Mr. Bach, this is passing.

"A number of our people have started small businesses in Hightstown," he said. "We're getting to know each other better. It's mostly a matter of time."

"We've tried to be careful. For instance, we have an anti-shorts law. That was because outsiders might come in here and see a bunch of people in shorts and think we were a lot of Bohemians. I think we've been here long enough now to repeal the law."

Mr. Bach, 29, assumed his dual civic duties January 1 after 3½ years in the Army. He won a field commission in Italy. Formerly a high school agriculture teacher, he expects to return to his profession eventually.

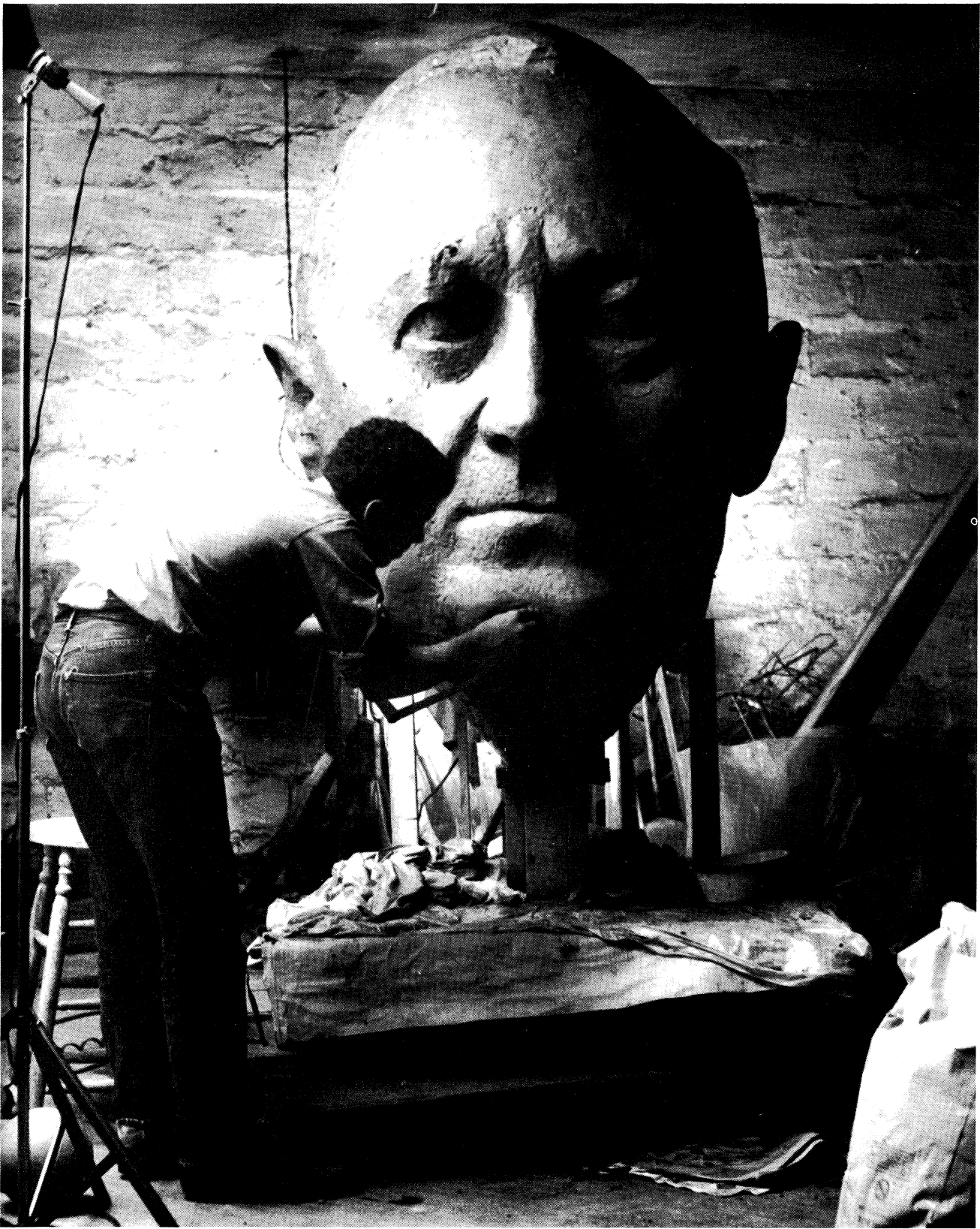
As police chief, Mr. Bach wears no uniform.

"He told us 3½ years of uniforms was enough," laughed Harry Katzenellenbogen, who says his name makes up for his small stature. Mr. Katzenellenbogen is a borough committeeman and one of the project's first farmers.

"We take a lot of raps in the papers," he continued. "Like when we elected Irving Flicker, a Republican, for Mayor, they said we were deserting the New Deal. It was a matter of picking the best man for local affairs and never mind his politics."

"They say the farms were a flop. Well, we had a couple of bad years. Now we are doing fine. So is the store."

"Sure, we have local issues and disputes. Co-operation doesn't mean we all think the same. It means working together, and we always do that and we will always do it."

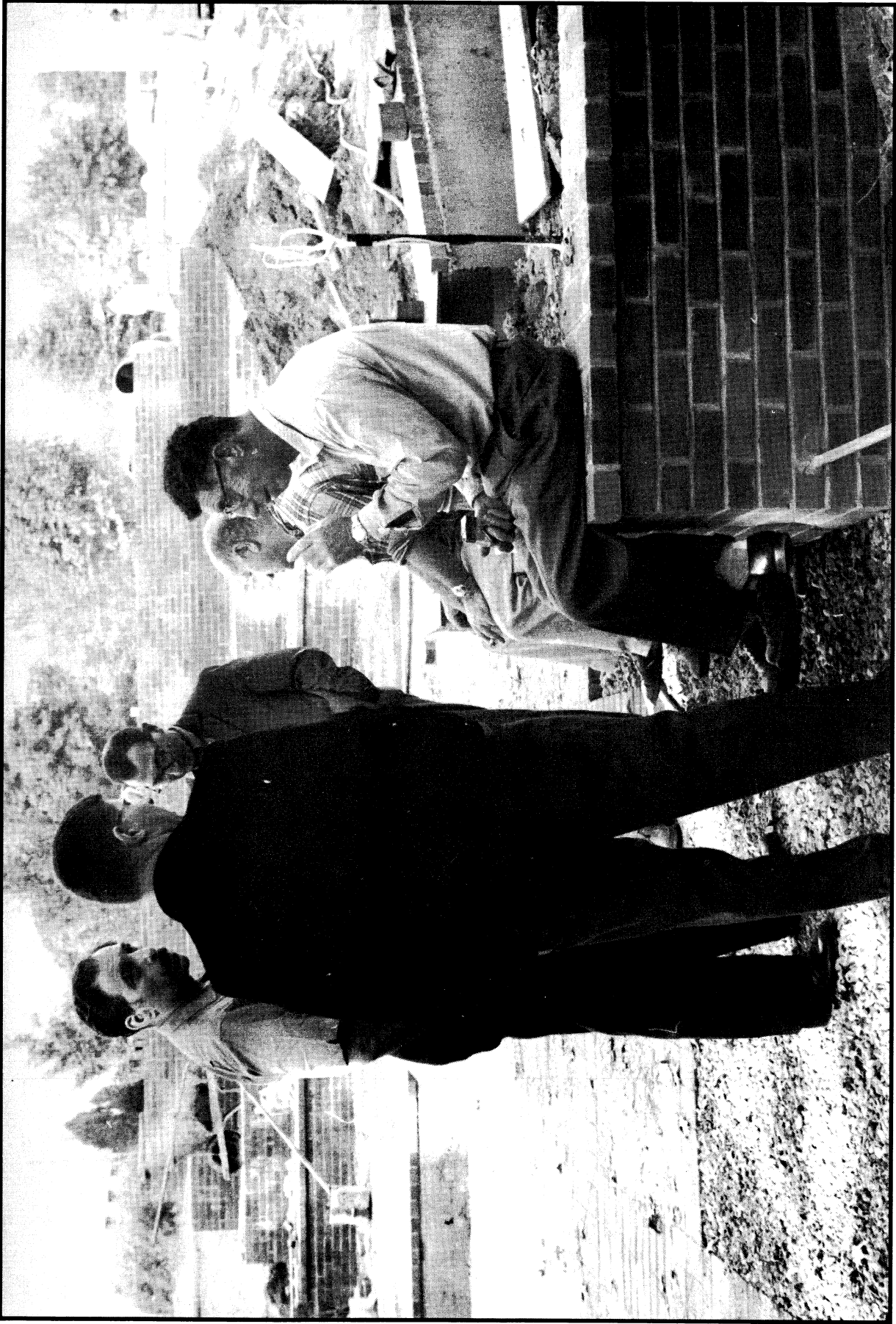


Jonathan Shahn working on Roosevelt Memorial.

Dedication of the F.D.R. Memorial

“When the news of President Roosevelt’s death came, the whole town went into mourning. To honor the memory of the dead president, the name of the town was changed from Jersey Homesteads to Roosevelt. Ben Shahn began plans for a memorial that was unveiled some (seventeen) years later... He was the major factor in raising the money for the memorial, and his son Jonathan created the (head of) Roosevelt that now stands on the school grounds as part of the FDR Memorial Park and Amphitheater. Mrs. Roosevelt herself came for the dedication of the memorial. On the pedestal... are the words ‘Franklin Delano Roosevelt in homage’.”

From “Peddler to Suburbanite: The
History of the Jews of Monmouth
County, New Jersey From the
Colonial Period to 1980”



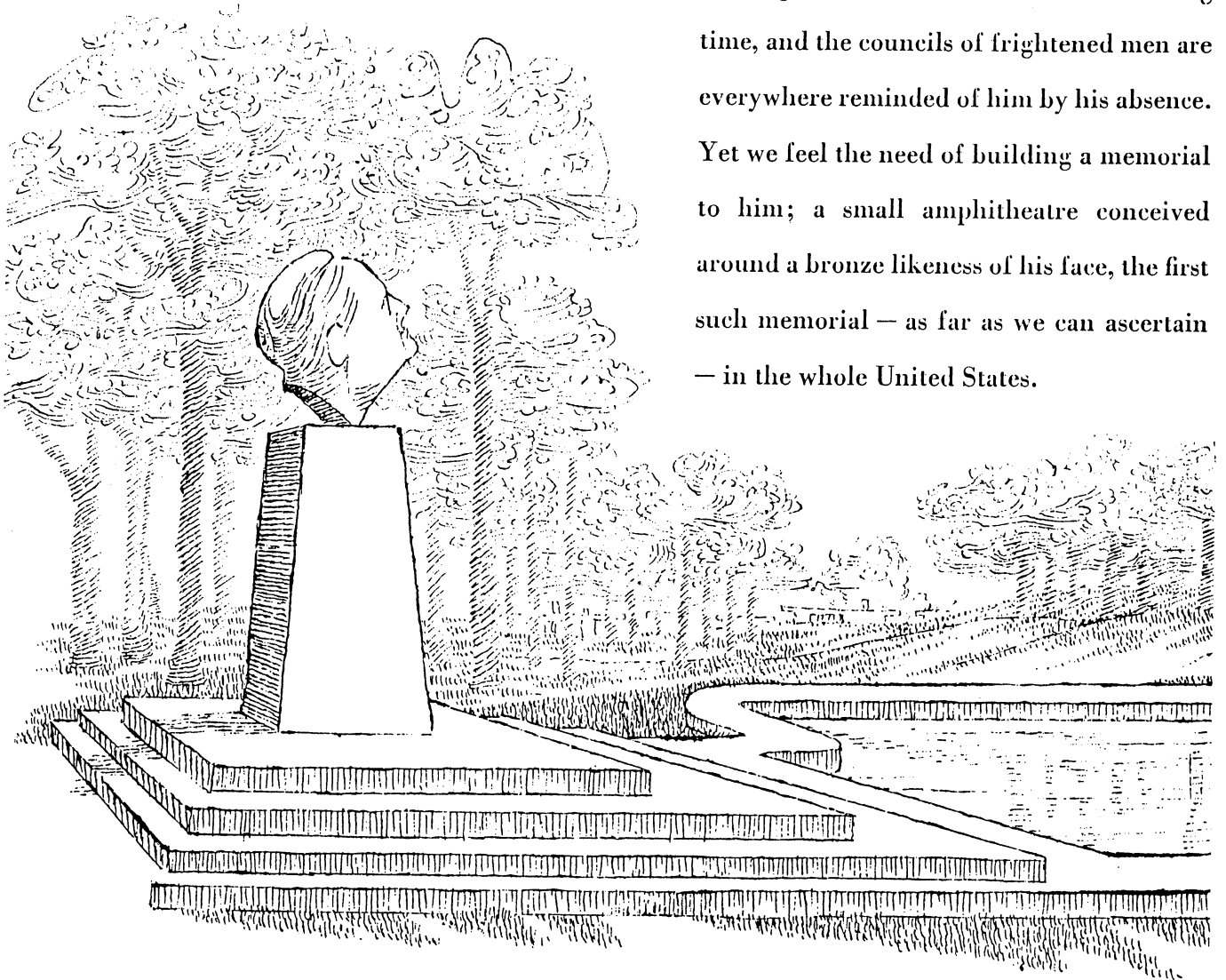
Memorial in construction phase (left to right): Jacob Grossman, Bertram Ellentuck (with back to camera), Marvin Feld, Hershel Katzenellenbogen, Irving Plungian. Photo by Edwin Rosskam.

Among the potato fields and chicken farms of New Jersey there is a town of about two hundred houses called Roosevelt. The town took its name soon after that day in April 1945 when the news of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death crashed on a world that was not ready to do without him; a day when strangers wept together in the streets.

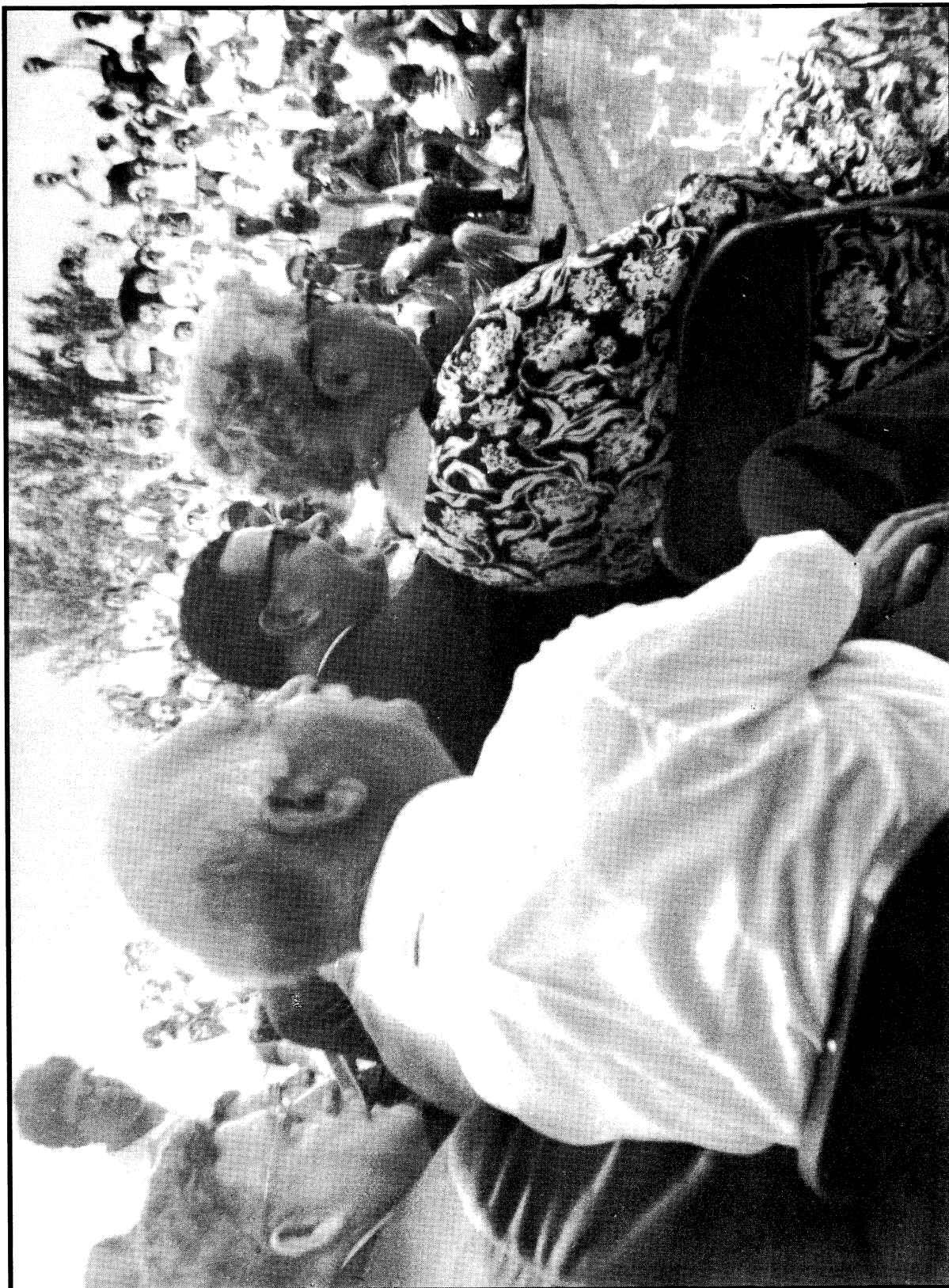
We, the citizens of this town, have no fear that Franklin D. Roosevelt will be forgotten soon; his image looms too large over our confused and threatening

time, and the councils of frightened men are everywhere reminded of him by his absence.

Yet we feel the need of building a memorial to him; a small amphitheatre conceived around a bronze likeness of his face, the first such memorial — as far as we can ascertain — in the whole United States.



From the Program of the Dedication Ceremonies — Roosevelt Memorial, June 2, 1962.



At the dedication ceremony (seated left to right): Dore Schary, Ben Shahn, Governor Richard Hughes, Eleanor Roosevelt.



Dedication audience (front row): Ida Levine, "Pop" Levine. (Standing left to right): Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Grushka, Isidore Grushka, Yetta Notterman.



Dedication audience.

Roosevelt Honored By Town in Jersey Bearing His Name

By **JOSEPH O. HAFF**

Special to The New York Times.

ROOSEVELT, N. J., June 2—

A community project sixteen years in the making reached its culmination today with the dedication of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Park and Amphitheatre.

Among the 2,000 persons who gathered here for the ceremony were Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President's widow; Gov. Richard J. Hughes and 900 residents of the town who had contributed to the memorial to the man for whom this town was named. The crowd overflowed the amphitheatre, which contains only 500 seats.

In addressing the gathering, Mrs. Roosevelt urged the same kind of courage and self-confidence her husband had inspired thirty years ago.

Pointing to the centerpiece of the memorial, a five-foot bronze head of the late President, Mrs. Roosevelt said, "What we should want to commemorate is that he cared about people and that he had the courage to experiment."

The memorial, on an acre of woodland, was the idea of the artist Ben Shahn, a resident. It was begun in 1946, a year after this community had changed its name from Jersey Homesteads.

The community was started in the New Deal in 1936 as a suburban haven for garment workers. It voted to change its name shortly after the death of President Roosevelt in 1945.

The plan for the amphitheatre, the bronze head and other details of the memorial, including a reflecting pool and fountain, were temporarily abandoned in 1946 when only \$2,000 of the necessary \$25,000 had been raised. Last year, on the community's twenty-fifth anniversary, the idea was revived and won enthusiastic support.

The ground was donated by the Board of Education and town officials gave \$1,000 toward the project.

Roosevelt Memorial Is Dedicated in New Jersey



United Press International Telephoto

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Gov. Richard J. Hughes of New Jersey at ceremony

The massive bronze head was designed and executed by Mr. Shahn's 23-year-old son, Jonathan, while he was an art student at the Boston Museum School last year. It was cast in Italy.

Dore Schary at Ceremony

Among those who joined in today's tribute were Dore Schary, the playwright, director and author, who had helped to raise \$6,000 of the \$22,000 already spent on the memorial; New Jersey's Commissioner of Labor, Raymond Male, who had been the guest of honor at the groundbreaking ceremony last July 4; and the actress Ann Bancroft, who read ex-

cerpts from some of the late President's talks during the Depression.

The memorial was the work of local residents. Using Mr. Shahn's design, the details of the amphitheatre and its surrounding park were worked out by Bertram Ellentuck, a member of the Municipal Planning Board of Trenton and a resident here for the last five years. The landscaping was planned and executed by Marvin Field, who grew up here.

Construction of the amphitheatre, pool and the base of the statue were done, at cost, by the town's Mayor, Irving Plungian.



Residents gathered at the Memorial following the assassination of Martin Luther King. Photo by Edwin Rosskam.



**The 1st
Reunion
June 3, 1984**



At R.P.S.

The First Reunion

In early June, 1984 more than 200 former and current residents of Jersey Homesteads and Roosevelt stood beneath the school's Ben Shahn mural at the town's first comprehensive reunion. Encouraged by the great success of a smaller gathering the year before, organizers planned this larger reunion as a forerunner to the celebration of the town's fiftieth anniversary, which was rapidly approaching.

The enthusiastic response to this idea at the 1984 reunion helped accelerate the plans for what organizers hope will be the largest gathering of former residents in the town's history, Memorial Day weekend, 1986.

Reunion: Commune Is Recalled

By LISA BELKIN

Special to The New York Times

ROOSEVELT, N.J., June 3 — Nearly 50 years ago, 200 unemployed Jewish garment workers — most of them from New York's Lower East Side — each scraped together \$500 and brought their families here for a federally sponsored experiment in communal living.

For that price each family was allowed to live in a single-story boxlike house, join a food cooperative and work in the fields during the summer and a nearby garment factory in the winter.

More than 200 children of those settlers held their first town reunion today in the schoolhouse they had once attended. They said they found only traces of the past in the present.

Sense of Purpose Is Gone

The population of the town is still less than 900, though most are now commuters rather than needleworkers and farmers. Though the original houses still stand, most have been modernized and expanded, and now sell for about \$60,000. The garment factory closed long ago, but 50 families still run a food cooperative. The town is not as Jewish nor as liberal as it was at the start. And, the returning children say, the old sense of purpose is missing.

"My father was a hat blocker and a socialist," said Goldie Grushka Rabinowitz, who moved to the town when she was 9 years old and moved away when she was 16. "We were poor, but we never knew we were poor. We felt we were an intellectual elite.

"There was a spirit, an excitement that couldn't have lasted forever," she continued. "Roosevelt is still special. But it's not as special."

"It's becoming a more or less typical community," said Pearl Hecht Seligman, who moved to the town when she was 14 and still lives there today. "It was always anything but typical."

\$14 a Month in Rent

The town, originally called Jersey Homesteads, began as the dream of Benjamin Brown, a wealthy and idealistic social planner. He persuaded the Roosevelt Administration to provide \$500,000 to resettle 200 unemployed Jewish needleworkers chosen by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union on 1.9 square miles in Monmouth County, about 50 miles southwest of Manhattan.

The first settlers, most of whom sold their furniture or borrowed against their life-insurance policies to raise the \$500 necessary to join the cooperatives, moved into their flat-



The New York Times/William E. Sauro

Bernarda Shahn, center, widow of Ben Shahn, the artist who painted the fresco on the wall in background, talking with Robert Estin and his wife, Halina, during a reunion celebration yesterday in Roosevelt, N.J.

roofed, concrete-walled homes in 1936.

The rent was \$14 a month and the taxes were \$8 a year. Each house had its own garage, though only two of the families had cars. The nearest shops were in Hightstown, four miles away.

They did not leave town to go to school, however. Nearby communities refused to accept the children of the settlers — whom the local newspapers called Communists — so classes were held in homes until the schoolhouse could be built.

That school, flat and concrete like the surrounding houses, was the social and political center of the community. On the wall of the library the artist Ben Shahn painted a 55-foot mural on the wet plaster showing immigrants arriving from Europe, entering factories and joining unions. In a corner of the mural is a picture of Franklin D. Roosevelt, after whom the town was eventually named.

The mural is still there. "Wherever you look there are reminders of the past," said Jesse Rabinowitz, who moved to Roosevelt in 1936 and came from California for the reunion. "That's the way it could be."

Sculptor and Wood Carver

Mr. Shahn, for example, brought a wave of artists to Roosevelt during the 30's and 40's, and they continue to flock there still. Mr. Shahn's son, Jonathan, who sculptured the bust of

Roosevelt that stands in the small amphitheater, lives there, as does Stefan Martin, son of the artist David Stone Martin, and one of a handful of remaining wood carvers in the country.

The town is still liberal. In the early years children were taken to the movies in Hightstown, where they sat in the section set aside for black migrant workers, those at the reunion said. Today political statements are not as dramatic, but there are only about 50 registered Republicans in town.

And the town is still small. It consists of about 875 residents, a deli, a liquor store, a post office, a cemetery and a school for 107 pupils. The 40 high school students are bused to Hightstown.

But, past and present residents say, similarities with the past can not erase the differences.

Though there is one synagogue and no church in town, the population is half Christian and half Jewish. Though town meetings are still held, community votes have been replaced with decisions by the town council. The garment factory closed in the early 40's and was reopened successively as a hat factory, a button factory and an assembly point for geodesic domes. Now the space is divided between several small manufacturers. The farms were sold several years ago.

The biggest differences are ones of

spirit, the present and former residents say.

"There was a moral code that was never spelled out, but as kids we understood it," said Helen Topal Barth, who moved to Roosevelt in 1936 when she was 3, left to get married in 1951 and returned in 1960 to raise her three children. "There isn't the same sense of being an example to the world."

"It's much more like a regular town than it was," said Jonathan Shahn, who remembers a house full of neighbors coming to talk with his father. "It used to be a yakkety-yak kind of place. People don't talk as much."

"I have a 16-year-old who just went through the schools, and I said to him, 'Shannon, who is Benjamin Brown?'" said Sandra Kaplan Orlando, who was required to write an essay on the visionary when she attended the Roosevelt school. "He shrugged his shoulders. In my day we spent four months on that essay. These kids have no idea what this town means. Maybe that's because it doesn't mean that much anymore."

But Frieda Anish, a former school board member who has lived in Roosevelt for 36 years, had a different view: "My feeling always was that Roosevelt was a microcosm of the country. Now the country's changing, so Roosevelt has to change. But it's still like a small town. I'd never live anywhere else."

Section II

TOWN LIFE

“Although Jersey Homesteads failed as a cooperative enterprise, in many ways it succeeded as a community. In 1936 the first seven families arrived. Only a few houses were ready for them although the factory had been completed. ... Some early family names were Plungian, Flicker, Singer, Sackowitz, Isaacs, Chernovsky, Perlmutter, Weiss, Adlerman and Topal. In their own way these early homesteaders were truly pioneers. They didn't have to fear Indian attacks but they had to endure great hostility on the part of neighboring communities who considered the project a communist-inspired experiment.”

From “Peddler to Suburbanite: The
History of the Jews of Monmouth
County, New Jersey From the
Colonial Period to 1980”

Roosevelt Kid Reminisces

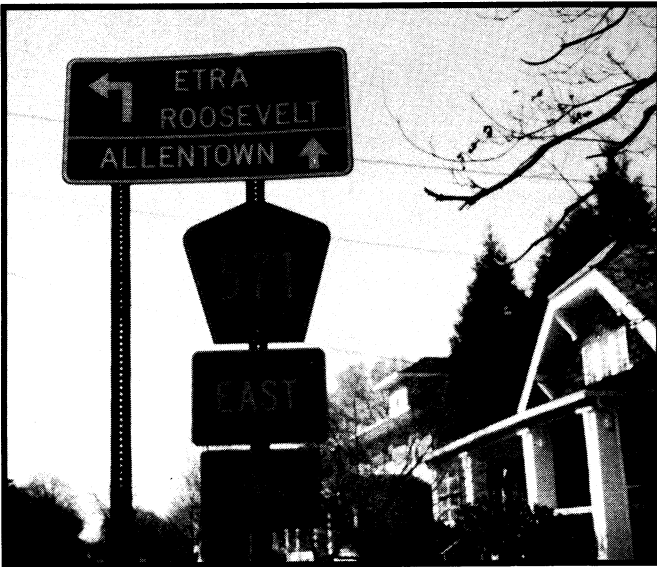
By Arthur Shapiro

At a recent town function, a New Yorker who settled here as an adult tried to convey how much he thought I had missed by growing up in Roosevelt. He mentioned such wonderful things as corner soda fountains and sewer ball games.

I laughed. I distinctly remember my New York cousins wanting to come to our house for vacations. There was always so much to do here.

In the winter you could belly flop on your Flexible Flyer down the Big Hill (now called Steeplechase) or go ice-skating on the pond near the sewage disposal (who would ever believe that I'd move closer to it!).

In the summer you could take in a movie in Joe Violi's garage at the triangle (he charged a dime), or put hot smooth stones from the road down the front of your pants to stop the poison ivy from itching. If you wanted to go swimming, the choices were Etra and Perrineville Lakes.



Hitching corner in Hightstown.

If you had nothing better to do you could listen to your neighbor's phone calls on the party line (our number was 567-R11, go to the Commissary (now



Simon Major.

the store) or to hang out at "Frenchy's" gas station.

If you were a Roosevelt kid, you could follow Simon Major collecting trash and ride your bike down streets with exotic names like Cooperative Extension or Co-op Circle. You could make a net out of wire hanger and cheesecloth or one of your mother's old stockings and catch, in season, lightning bugs, frogs, turtles, moths, hoptoads, bees, tadpoles.

In school you could join the Safety Patrol and arrest other kids for breaking rules such as double-riding.

After school a kid could play roly-poly, wall-ball, handball, batter-up, softball, or touch football. You could build a fort or a hut at Green Mountain behind Shahn's house and cook potatoes in the ground.

If you were bored, you could make a rug with a horse reins (a homemade loom made from a spool), a rubber gun (from an inner tube), a match gun (from a spring clothespin), a kite (from newspaper), a slingshot or a bow and arrow. You could play marbles (puries were the best), yell to your friends through the sewers, or "bust" tar bubbles in the road.

You could join Troop 83 of the Boy Scouts (Stefan Martin was my fearless patrol leader) or join the Roosevelt Drum and Bugle Corps, led by Harold Cooper.

Kenny Kaye, Steve Grossman, Mike and Bruce Block, Jimmy Frank and Robbie Bookman were the names of "little kids".

My friends had names like Oogie, Obbinocker, Hump, Beefy, Petslock and Worm. If you really wanted to insult a guy, you "slipped" him by calling him by his mother's first name.

During the summer, if you wanted to work, you could candle eggs or vaccinate chickens on a farm. At night you could hang out at Bogatz's with the New York girls.

In those days your mother never had to leave town to do her shopping. Lobl's store delivered. In addition a fish man, an egg man, two bread men, the kosher butcher, an ice cream man, the Ham-

mer soda truck, two milkmen and the shochet (who killed fresh chickens) routinely came through town.

Many Rooseveltians ate Friday night dinner at Nick Mastoris' Hightstown Diner. For the best ice cream you needed to go only as far as Katz's in Etra.

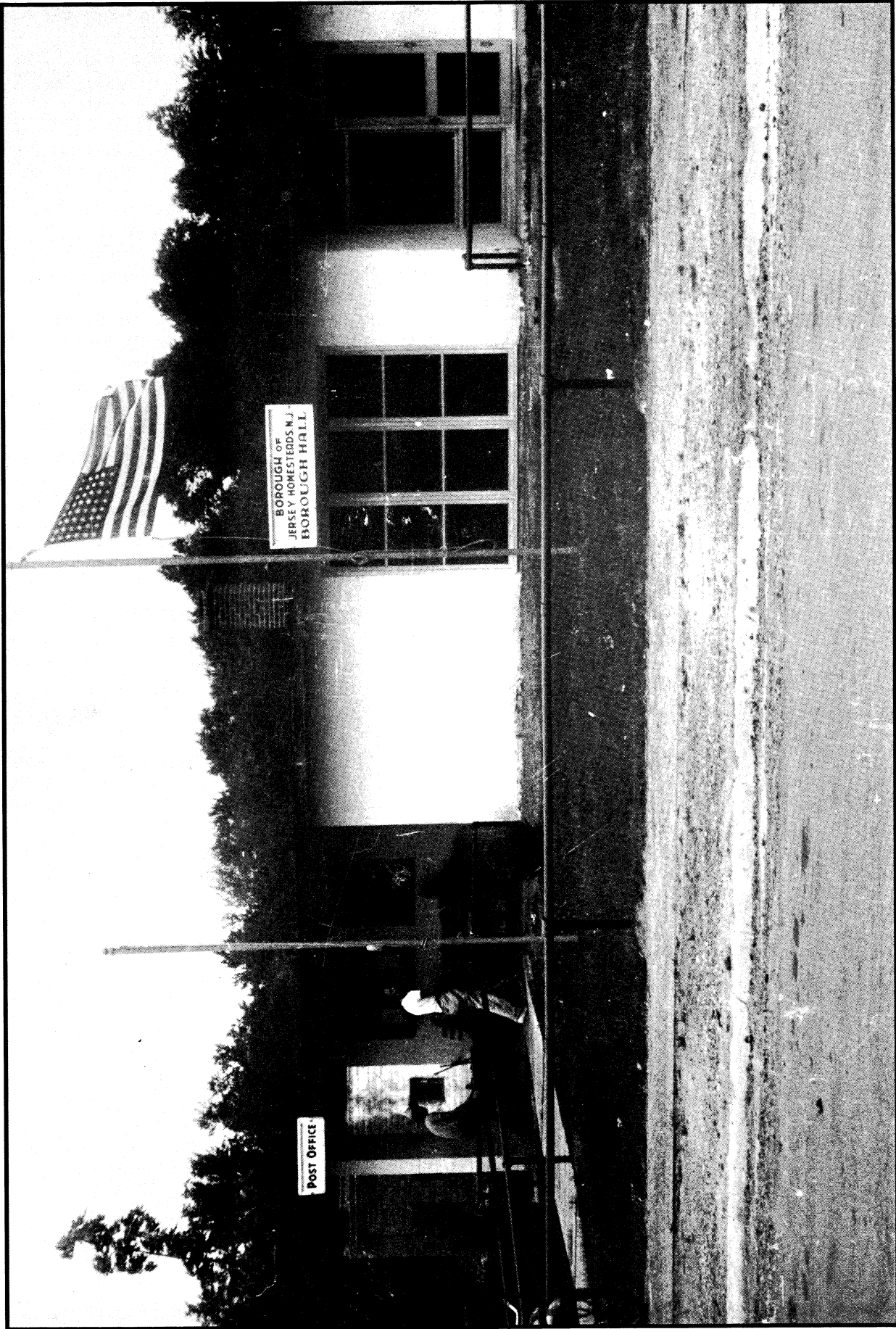
Your initiation into Hightstown High School, if you were a freshman boy, consisted of having your pants pulled off at the triangle during the first weeks of school and all freshmen were relegated to the back of the bus. On Saturday night you could go to the Canteen over the Hightstown Fire House.

If you craved excitement, you could play cops by stopping cars in your Hightstown High School Band uniform or go bushwacking at the Crematory with friends you have for a lifetime.

And to think I gave up corner soda fountains and sewer ball!



The town hitching corner, Rochdale Avenue and Homestead Lane.

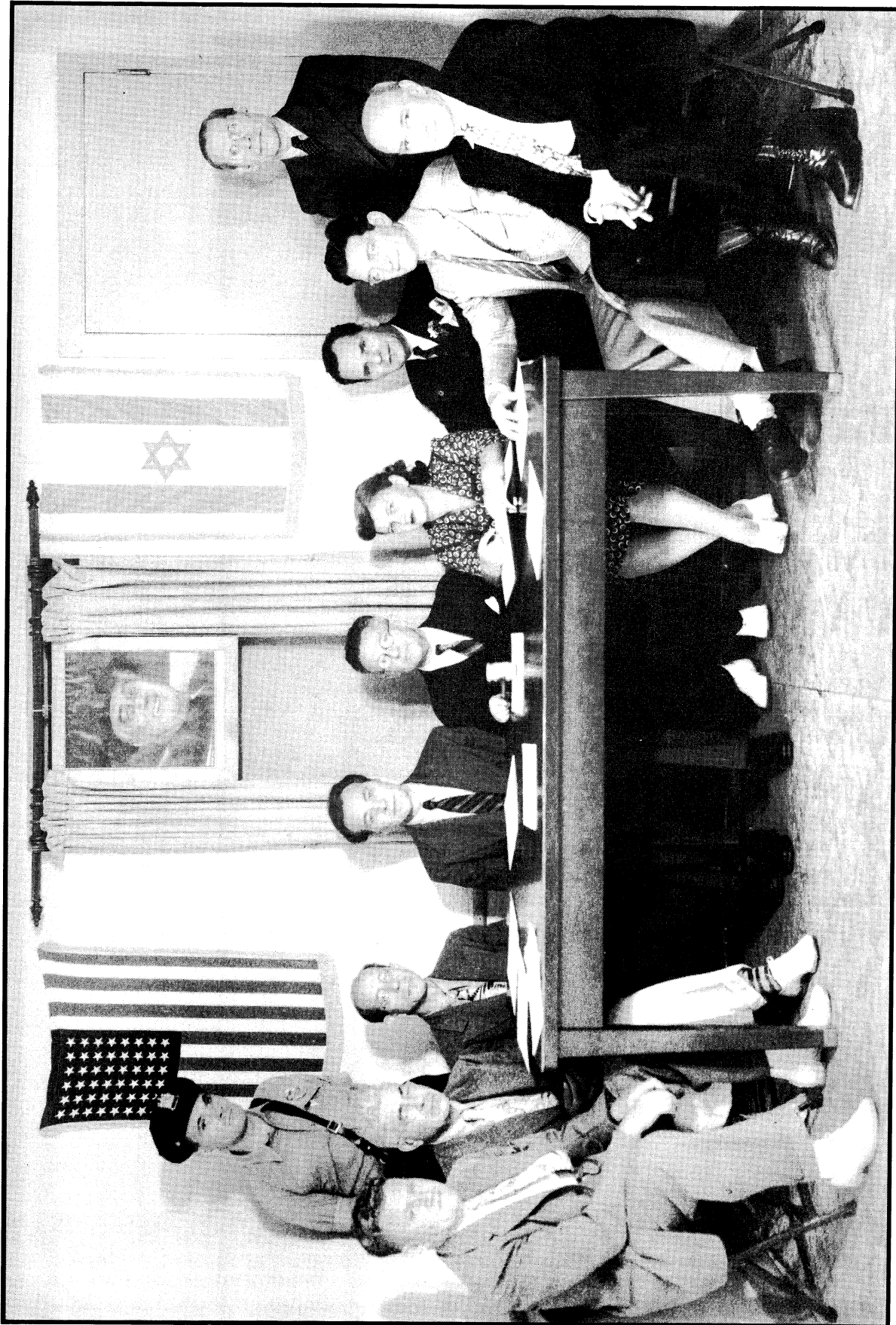


First Borough Hall, which also housed the Post Office, 4 Homestead Lane.

Municipal Government

From the time of its inception in 1937, the town has been governed by a mayor and six-member council. Vacancies for this all-volunteer body have never been difficult to fill, testament to the sense of civic responsibility on which the town was originally based.

Since 1937, there have been 10 different mayors, beginning with Philip Goldstein, who held the post until 1941. Irving Flicker served from 1946 to 1958, setting the record for the most terms in office. Boris Drasin was the most enduring Borough Councilmember, serving from 1941 to 1959.



(Left to right): Abe Lipsky, Wilbur Loftus (standing), Morris Malamed, Isidore Grushka, Boris Drasin, Mayor Jacob Rearson, Anna Halperin, Frank Hecht, Irving Flicker, Mr. Montrose (standing), Mac Adlerman, 1943.

Mayors and Councils Through the Years

1937

MAYOR
Philip Goldstein
COUNCIL
Morris Chasan
Frank Hecht
Abraham Lipsky
Oscar Nisnevitz
Irving Plungian
Julius Sokoloff

1942

MAYOR
Sidney Gushen
COUNCIL
Jacob Rearson
Aaron Rockoff
Boris Drasin
Mike Millet
Frank Hecht
Isidore Grushka

1947

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Harry Katzenellenbogen
Irving Plungian
Myron Feld
Ben Shahn
Leo Libove

1952

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
David Irwin
George Levinson
Jacob Grossman
Myron Feld
Boris Drasin
Irving Bach

1938

MAYOR
Philip Goldstein
COUNCIL
Morris Chasan
Julius Sokoloff
Julius Finkler
Frank Hecht
Mike Millet
Louis Gushen

1943

MAYOR
Jacob Rearson
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Isidore Grushka
Abraham Lipsky
Irving Flicker
Morris Malamed
Frank Hecht

1948

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Myron Feld
Ben Shahn
Leo Libove
Max Rosenberg
Irving Bach

1953

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
David Irwin
George Levinson
Solomon Berg
Samuel Friedman
Irving Plungian
Boris Drasin

1939

MAYOR
Philip Goldstein
COUNCIL
Morris Chasan
Julius Sokoloff
Mike Millet
Jacob Rearson
Julius Rabinowitz
Julius Finkler

1944

MAYOR
Jacob Rearson
COUNCIL
Isidore Grushka
Abraham Lipsky
Morris Melamed
Irving Flicker
Boris Drasin
Irving Greenberg

1949

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
David Irwin
Irving Bach
Jacob Grossman
Irving Plungian
Myron Feld

1954

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Irving Plungian
David Bulkin
Samuel Friedman
George Levinson
Morton Edwards

1940

MAYOR
Philip Goldstein
COUNCIL
Jacob Rearson
Mike Millet
Julius Rabinowitz
Isidore Grushka
Frank Hecht
Morris Chasan

1945

MAYOR
Jacob Rearson
COUNCIL
Isidore Grushka
Abraham Lipsky
Irving Plungian
Boris Drasin
Irving Greenberg
Harry Katzenellenbogen

1950

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
David Irwin
Irving Bach
Jacob Grossman
Irving Plungian
Myron Feld

1955

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Irving Plungian
David Bulkin
Morton Edwards
Martin Sokoloff
Dolores Chasan

1941

MAYOR
Philip Goldstein
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Isidore Grushka
Frank Hecht
Jacob Rearson
Aaron Rockoff
Mike Millet

1946

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Anna Halpern
Leo Libove
Ben Shahn
Boris Drasin
Harry Katzenellenbogen
Irving Plungian

1951

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
David Irwin
Irving Bach
Jacob Grossman
Irving Plungian
Myron Feld

1956

MAYOR
Irving Flicker
COUNCIL
Boris Drasin
Irving Plungian
David Bulkin
Morton Edwards
Martin Sokoloff
Kurt Kleinman

1957

MAYOR

Irving Flicker

COUNCIL

Boris Drasin
Irving Plungian
David Bulkin
Morton Edwards
Martin Sokoloff
Kurt Kleinman

1958

MAYOR

Irving Flicker

COUNCIL

Boris Drasin
Irving Plungian
David Bulkin
Morton Edwards
Kurt Kleinman
Jacob Grossman

1959

MAYOR

Irving Plungian

COUNCIL

Boris Drasin
David Bulkin
Morton Edwards
Kurt Kleinman
Jacob Grossman
Howard Prezant

1960

MAYOR

Irving Plungian

COUNCIL

Morton Edwards
David Bulkin
Kurt Kleinman
Jacob Grossman
Rosalind Carmen
Howard Prezant

1961

MAYOR

Irving Plungian

COUNCIL

Howard Prezant
David Bulkin
Kurt Kleinman
Rosalind Carmen
Frances Bard
Salvatore Termini

1962

MAYOR

Irving Plungian

COUNCIL

Kurt Kleinman
David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Frances Bard
Salvatore Termini
Irving Goldberg

1963

MAYOR

Irving Plungian

COUNCIL

Kurt Kleinman
David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Frances Bard
Salvatore Termini
Irving Goldberg

1964

MAYOR

William Margolis

COUNCIL

David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Bertram Ellentuck
Irving Goldberg
Theodore Marton
Kurt Kleinman

1965

MAYOR

William Margolis

COUNCIL

David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Bertram Ellentuck
Irving Goldberg
Theodore Marton
Sidney Weisberger

1966

MAYOR

William Margolis

COUNCIL

David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Bertram Ellentuck
Irving Goldberg
Theodore Marton
Sidney Weisberger

1967

MAYOR

William Margolis

COUNCIL

David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Bertram Ellentuck
Irving Goldberg
Theodore Marton
Sidney Weisberger

1968

MAYOR

Theodore Marton

COUNCIL

David Bulkin
Rosalind Carmen
Bertram Ellentuck
Albert Hepner
Sidney Weisberger
Leon Anish

1969

MAYOR

Theodore Marton

COUNCIL

Leon Anish
Bertram Ellentuck
Constance Shally
Leonard Sacharoff
Sidney Weisberger
Albert Hepner

1970

MAYOR

Theodore Marton

COUNCIL

Leon Anish
Leon Barth
Bertram Ellentuck
Albert Hepner
Leonard Sacharoff
Sidney Weisberger

1971

MAYOR

Bertram Ellentuck

COUNCIL

Leon Barth
Esther Pogrebin Schleifer
Richard Schmalzbach
Leon Anish
Leonard Sacharoff
Arnold Sokolow

1972

MAYOR

Bertram Ellentuck

COUNCIL

Leon Barth
Irving Plungian
Leonard Sacharoff
Esther Pogrebin Schleifer
Richard Schmalzbach
Arnold Sokolow

1973

MAYOR

Bertram Ellentuck

COUNCIL

Leon Barth
Judith Farnell
Leonard Sacharoff
Esther Pogrebin Schleifer
Richard Schmalzbach
Arnold Sokolow

1974

MAYOR

Bertram Ellentuck

COUNCIL

Leon Barth
Judith Farnell
Esther Pogrebin
Michael Ticktin
Arnold Sokolow
Leonard Sacharoff

1975

MAYOR

Bertram Ellentuck

COUNCIL

Leon Barth
Edward Schlinski
Judith Farnell
Leonard Sacharoff
Esther Pogrebin
Arnold Sokolow

1976

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Edward Grossman
Arthur Shapiro
Arnold Sokolow
Edward Schlinski
Esther Pogrebin
Leonard Sacharoff



(Left to right): Treasurer Howard Prezant, Tax Collector Louise Prezant, Mayor Leon Barth, Borough Clerk Liz Johnson, Councilperson Jan Terry, 1980.

1977

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Esther Pogrebin
Leonard Sacharoff
Arthur Shapiro
Arnold Sokolow
Edward Schlinski
Theodore Marton

1980

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Jan Terry
Leslie Weiner
William Counterman
Aaron Datz
Louis Esakoff
Marilyn Magnes

1983

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Howard Chasan
William Counterman
Louis Esakoff
Norman Nahmias
Jan Terry
Aaron Datz

1986

MAYOR

Freda Hepner

COUNCIL

Carol Watchler
Lee Selden
Ralph Seligman
Bernard Leefer
Ferris Stout
Ed Moser

1978

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Louis Esakoff
Theodore Marton
Arthur Shapiro
Arnold Sokolow
Aaron Datz
Esther Pogrebin

1981

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Louis Esakoff
William Counterman
Marilyn Magnes
Jan Terry
Leslie Weiner
Aaron Datz

1984

MAYOR

Freda Hepner

COUNCIL

William Counterman
Howard Chasan
Louis Esakoff
Carol Watchler
Deborah Metzger
Bernard Leefer

1979

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Marilyn Magnes
William Counterman
Louis Esakoff
Theodore Marton
Esther Pogrebin
Aaron Datz

1982

MAYOR

Leon Barth

COUNCIL

Louis Esakoff
Norman Nahmias
Aaron Datz
William Counterman
Jan Terry
Leslie Weiner

1985

MAYOR

Freda Hepner

COUNCIL

Howard Chasan
Bernard Leefer
Carol Watchler
Lee Selden
Ralph Seligman
George Levinson



The police force in 1961 (left to right): Anthony Wisowaty, Ben Surasky, Howard Prezant (Borough Council Safety Committee Chairman), Philip Muskat, Wilbur Loftus.

Colonial News Profiles

Isidore Sackowitz - 'The Last Of A Vanishing Breed'

BY G.B. DYER

ROOSEVELT - "The last of a vanishing breed" is how Isidore Sackowitz sees himself in his role as a career municipal employee, feeling that with the advent of the age of technology, the rendering of municipal services may take on radically different aspects in years to come.

MAN FOR ALL OCCASIONS

In this borough, though, and in this time, you may call him a "man for all occasions," wearing with equal competence and familiarity the hats of borough clerk, director of welfare, building inspector, registrar of vital statistics, secretary of the Planning Board and superintendent of the cemetery, as the occasion may demand.

In fact, he says, Roosevelt being a relatively small municipality, his many-faceted administrative functions often evoke the question "how can one man have so much power?," the asker never realizing his composite jobs are administrative, rather than policy-making.

"I may be the one who, in effect, tells an applicant that his request for a variance has been denied," he explains, "however, this decision was made by the Planning Board, I merely being the bearer of the news."

In addition to functioning as the chief administrator of this borough, Izzi, as he is affectionately (or, he insists, often not so affectionately) known, also has, what he calls his part-time job:

ENVIRONMENTALIST

Working within the area of his primary interest - public health and environmental protection - he is the executive officer of the Boards of Health of Freehold Borough and Township,

Upper Freehold Township, Marlboro and Millstone Townships, and the boroughs of Englishtown, Allentown, and, of course, Roosevelt.

With the growth of the area in recent years, Mr. Sackowitz stresses that the greatest care must be taken to protect the environment. "I've always preached environmental protection," he says, pointing out that the recent catchy addition to our vocabulary - "ecology" - means practically the same thing, specifically, a protective concern with the interrelation of organisms and their environment.

"The denser the population," he says, "the more care must be taken. Our goal must be to make our environment as excellent as we can." He deplores the blatant abuses during the last decades of insufficiently - controlled or non-controlled expansion, holding a firm belief that everything that is done has a definite effect on the environment, and so on each individual.

A pragmatist, he shows little patience for the dreamer, the pure idealist, as personified by many of the young generation. They accomplish relatively little with their good intentions and fine-sounding phrases, he feels, and points out that only in an affluent society can the young afford to dream. "They don't have to produce," he says.

Only ideals that are convertible into reality hold his interest. "I am the middleman," he says, "who likes to understand a philosophical concept and pragmatically bring it to reality."

Working effectively in such mundane areas as water supply, sewage treatment and garbage disposal - all of which fall into the sphere of a public health official's

responsibilities - for Izzi Sackowitz takes on the aspects of endeavoring to realize a utopian goal.

SOCIAL HISTORIAN

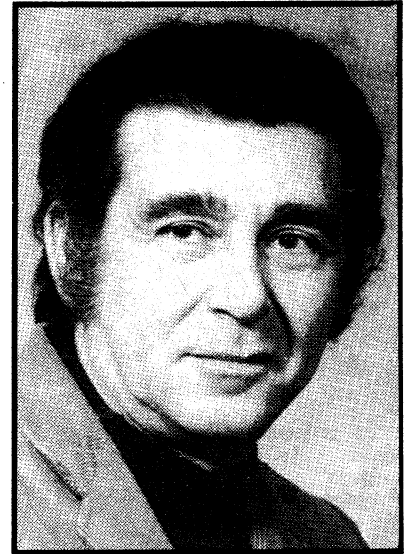
Although Mr. Sackowitz concedes that the composite of his many part time jobs makes up a seven-day work week, he will gladly and enthusiastically take time to reminisce about "his" Roosevelt, and its unique aspects as a social experiment.

Established in 1936, under the then avant-garde European Open Space concept, it was "born" instantly as a fully-planned community, and settled largely by a contingent of liberal Jewish families of garment workers.

Forming a cooperative, they had come to "buy into a dream." Mr. Sackowitz' parents were among those first settlers, who, in the lean thirties, had managed to raise \$500 each family, for this opportunity. "They were little people who saw a chance to realize a dream, a chance to buy into a new and better way of life," says Mr. Sackowitz.

The cooperative, a cloak factory, failed almost at once. Although the buildings were rented from the government, the equipment and textiles were jointly owned by the settlers. "Though they were fine and competent craftsmen," he says, "they lacked management skill. This, and subtle pressures, combined to doom the experiment to failure."

The community as such, however, prospered. After the first wave of settlers, the craftsmen, the second wave brought an influx of the liberal intelligentsia and the artists. They came, says Mr. Sackowitz, to be part of a liberal, social - conscious community. Ben Shawn is symptomatic of the art imprint on Roosevelt, he



ISIDORE SACKOWITZ

says, but emphasizes that the basis of the community firmly rests on the original settlers, the craftsmen.

In the middle sixties, the third group coming to settle in Roosevelt were those in search of an inexpensive home.

While in surrounding areas property values had risen astronomically, in Roosevelt one could still buy a three- to four-bedroom fully landscaped home on a landscaped, half-acre lot somewhere around \$16,000 to \$18,000, he explains.

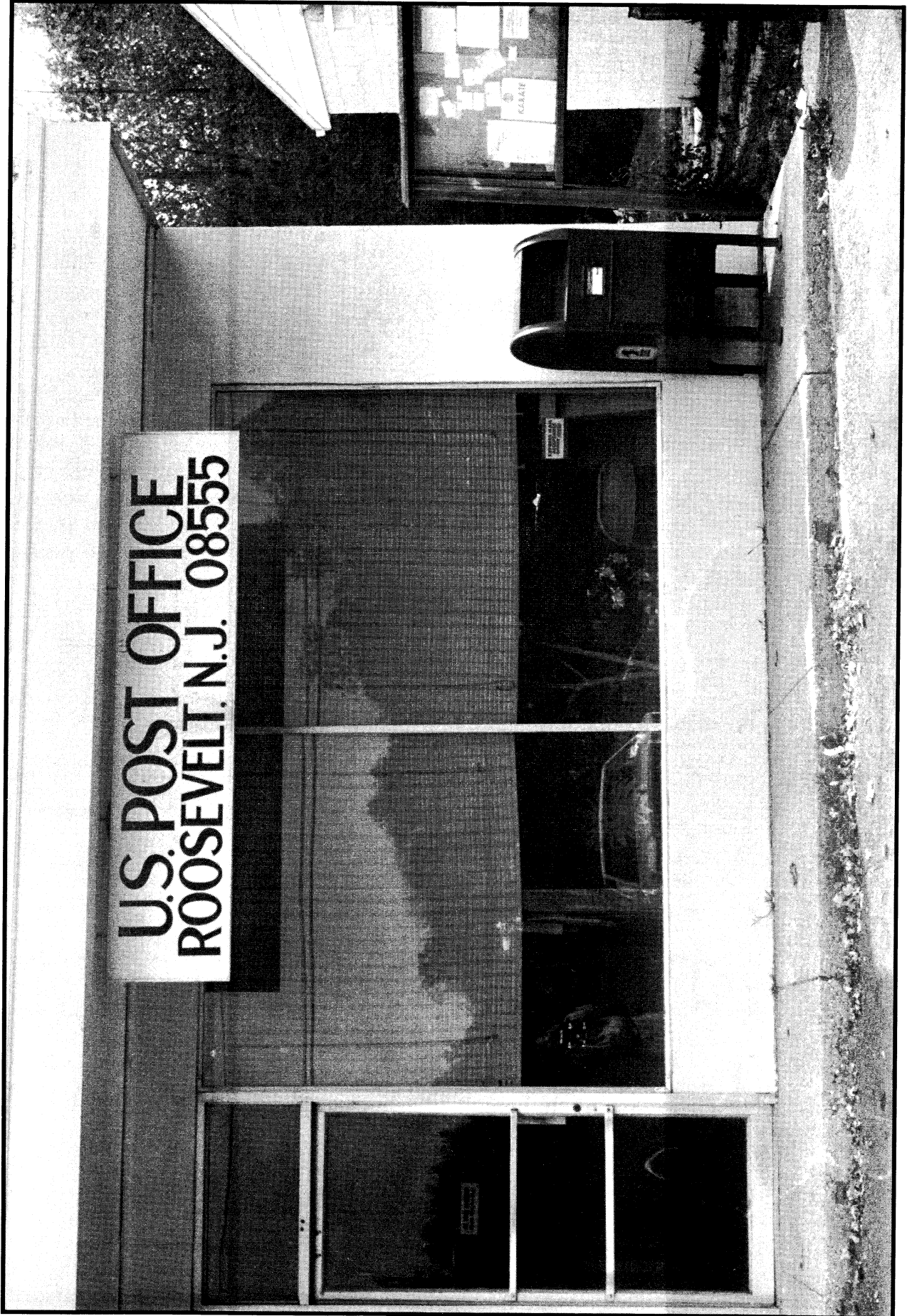
"Unfortunately," he says, "in many instances the price tag was the only consideration." This has brought about a change in the social make-up of the community, which, according to Mr. Sackowitz, is decidedly not for the better.

"If I live out the normal span of my life and die of old age here in my hometown," he says, "I will have witnessed in my life-time the ideological and sociological rise and fall of a community."

The Post Office

In 1940, the U.S. Post Office Department authorized the recognition of the Jersey Homesteads Post Office at 4 Homestead Lane. It would no longer be registered as a rural station of the Hightstown Post Office. In addition, the Borough of Jersey Homesteads was now included on U.S. Postal maps.

Sylvia Shaken, the first Borough Postmistress, successfully orchestrated the transition from the rural station to the Borough Post Office. There have been four Postmistresses since Sylvia Shaken – Edna Surasky, Bessie Blutstein (whose husband, Jack, served as Postmaster after her death), Sarah Goldberg and Gerry Millar.



ESTABLISHMENT
LOCATION OF PROPOSED POST OFFICE

DIVISION OF POSTMASTERS

IN REPLYING
MENTION INITIALS AND DATE

Post Office Department
FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
Washington

AUG 17 1940

#768

SIR: With reference to the proposed establishment of a post office at the point named below, and in order that the office, if established, may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you furnish accurately the information called for below and prepare a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Postmasters, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Proposed post office, Jersey Homesteads P.O. Monmouth N.J.
(Name) (County) (State)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here:

The post office would be situated in the Boro of Jersey Homesteads quarter of section No. _____ in Township _____ (N. or S.)

Range _____ of the _____ principal meridian, County of Monmouth (E. or W.)
State of New Jersey

The name of the nearest river is _____, and the post-office building would be at a distance of _____ on the _____ side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is Assumpink Creek, and the post-office building would be at a distance of 3000 ft. on the North side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this proposed post office is Hightstown and its distance is 5 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a N.W. direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is None and its distance is _____ miles, in a _____ direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this proposed post office is Clarksburg and its distance is 3 miles, by the traveled road, in a S.E. direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The post-office building would be on the _____ side of the _____ Railroad, and at a distance of _____ from the track. The railroad station name is _____

The post office would be 1 3/4 miles air-line distance, S.E. from the nearest point of my county boundary. (N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Applicant for Postmaster:

T. L. J. J. J.
Date: Feb. 20, 1940



Dedication of school which graduated its first class in 1938.

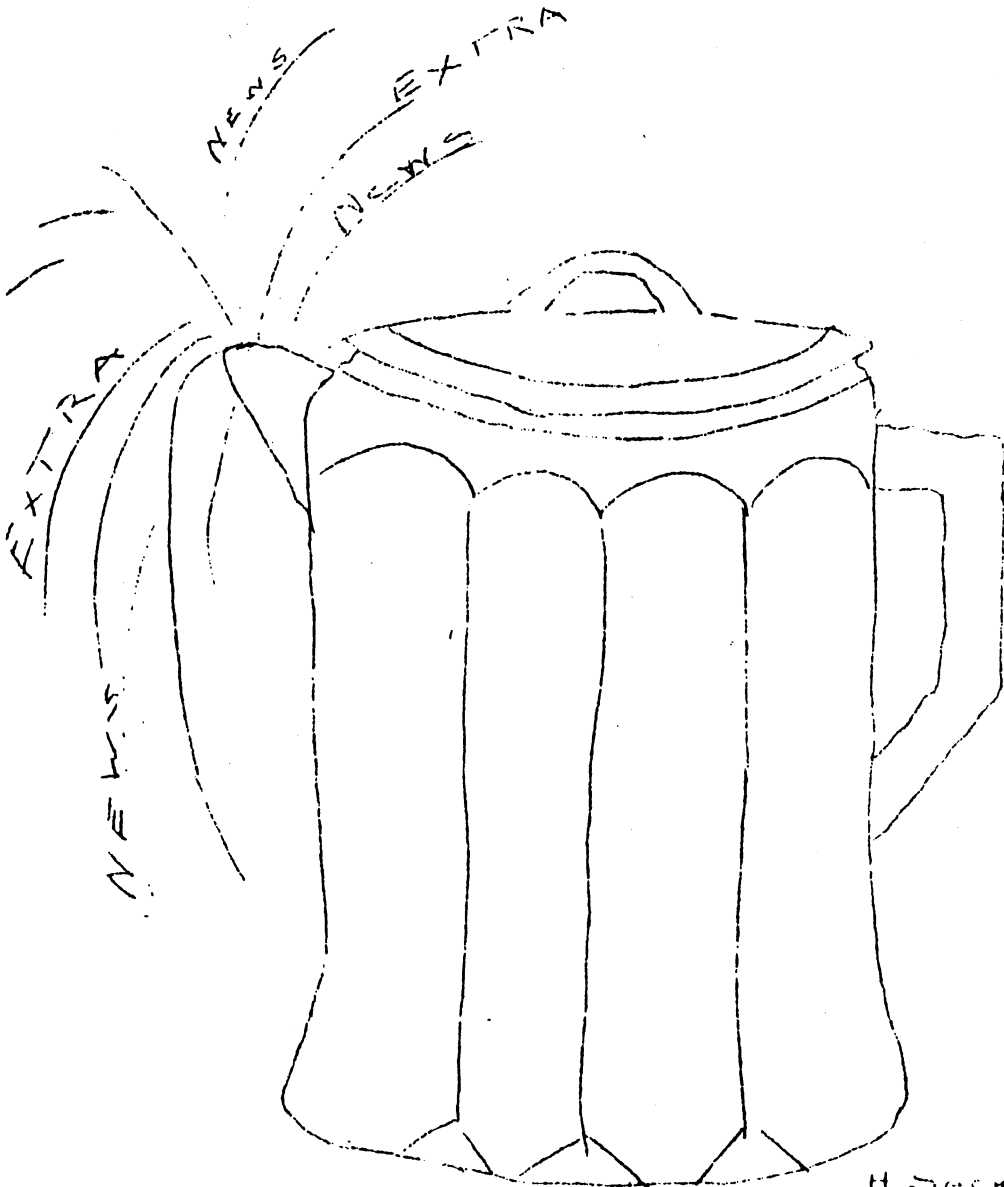
Roosevelt Public School

“Millstone Township, motivated perhaps by anti-Semitism and fear of the radical reputation of the settlers, refused to accept their children in its elementary schools, so they had to build their own school. Until the building was completed, classes were held in unoccupied houses. When the school was finally completed, it became the cultural and social center of the town.”

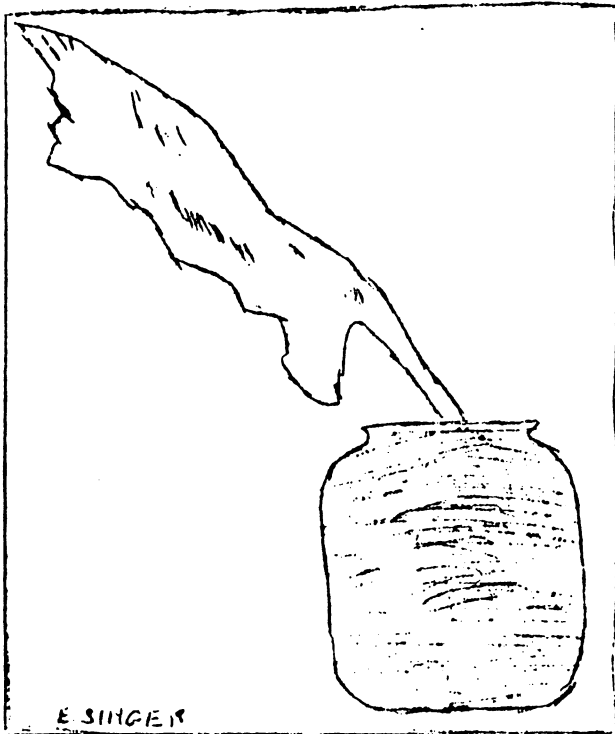
From “Peddler to Suburbanite: The
History of the Jews of Monmouth
County, New Jersey From the
Colonial Period to 1980”

Mus Brown

PERCOLATOR



H. SACKOWITZ



THANK YOU!

This is our first attempt at publishing a newspaper. We sincerely hope that you, will not judge us too harshly. We have worked hard in preparing the first issue of the "Percolator", and hope that you will enjoy this issue and many more to come.

To our contributors, our staff, and our advisors, who have helped us publish the first issue of our newspaper, we all join in saying "Thank you."

The Editor

THE PERCOLATOR STAFF

Editor-in-chief
Renee Gushen

Literary Manager
Goldie Grushka

Assistants

Edith Lockman
Aileen Garber

Natalie Kleinman
Judah Bauman

Art Manager
Ernest Singer

Assistants

Milton Schwartz

Harry Sackowitz

Sidney Geltman

Circulation Manager
Meyer Sokoloff

Assistants

Arthur Eisenberg
Philip Muskat

Howard Silverberg
Herman Adashka

News Manager
George Hochfield

Assistants

Herbert Berg

Sidney Greenwald

Arnold Sokolow

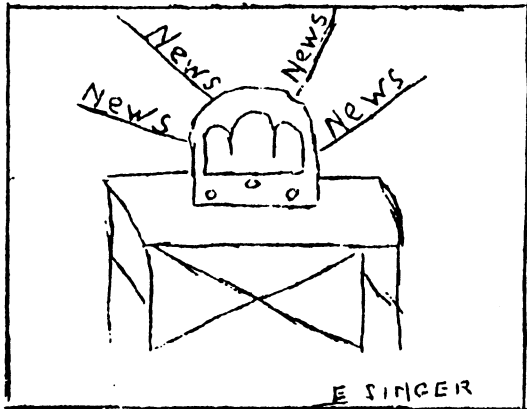
Advisors

Miss Brown
Miss Stark

Miss Kaplan

Mr. Wolman

Mrs. Wolf
Miss Cobin



See the
Nursery Rhyme
Mural
in Miss Cobin's Room.

On Wednesday, October 19, Trooper Galvan of the New Jersey State Police came to the first meeting of our Safety Patrol.

We talked of many things. The most important discussion was on the question of knives carried to school. We finally decided Trooper Galvan's advice of permitting no knives at school was correct. Henceforth, we shall permit no knives at school.

We also heard some essays and rules on fire prevention.

The captain of our safety patrol is Meyer Sokoloff and the lieutenants are Renee Gushen and Judah Bauman.

Every Friday morning we hold a meeting of our Current Events Club. Here we talk about important happenings the world over.

The Seventh and Eighth grades took up new countries for study this week.

The Eighth grade began a study of the United States. They are all making charts about the great agricultural crops of the United States.

The Seventh grade began a study of Mexico. Sydney Geltman is making a large product map of Mexico. Sydney Geltman and Harry Sackowitz are working on a Mexican freize.

School was held up for about twenty minutes, October 20th when the teachers failed to come on time. The car in which they were driving here was delayed because of a slight accident.

Every other week our school listens to Walter Damroesch's musical program. We have heard many fine pieces of music. Thanks to the Board of Education for buying us a radio so that we can listen to this fine program.

Each Wednesday we also listen to "The American School of the Air". This program gives us many interesting facts on current events. We have already heard a program from the battle front of China. A few weeks ago we heard a program direct from Geneva, the home of the League of Nations.

Miss Stark's classes, the Third and Fourth grades, keep a news bulletin of the things they do in their own room.

BUY "THE PERCOLATOR"



Roosevelt's young adults participate in Russian Festival held on gym stage, summer, 1939.

PLAYGROUND NOTES

PLACE- ~~XXXXXX~~ opposite the factory

HOURS-- Monday through Friday-- ~~(9)~~ 9:30 - 11:30 A. M.

1 - 5 P.M.

ACTIVITIES --	Volley - Ball	Baseball
	Basket- Ball	Miniature Golf
	Quoits	Horshoes
	Croquet	Quiet Games (Checker, puzzles)
	Flower Garden	Vegetable Garden
	Dramatics(Plays)	Arts. & Crafts(Coping- saw, Sewing, Carving.)
	Hikes	Picnics

CAPTAINS -- Monday June 14 - Monday June 28
Girls 12 - 16- Pauline Karshentbaum

Boys 13 - 16 - Paul Bauman

Girls 8 - 12 - Goldie Grushka

Boys 10 - 13 - Arnold Sokolow

Boys 7 - 10 - George Hecht

Captains are responsible for all playground equipment and are in charge of their group.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Playground every day.

Everything is free of any charge.



Edith Brown
W.P.A. Recreation Sup.

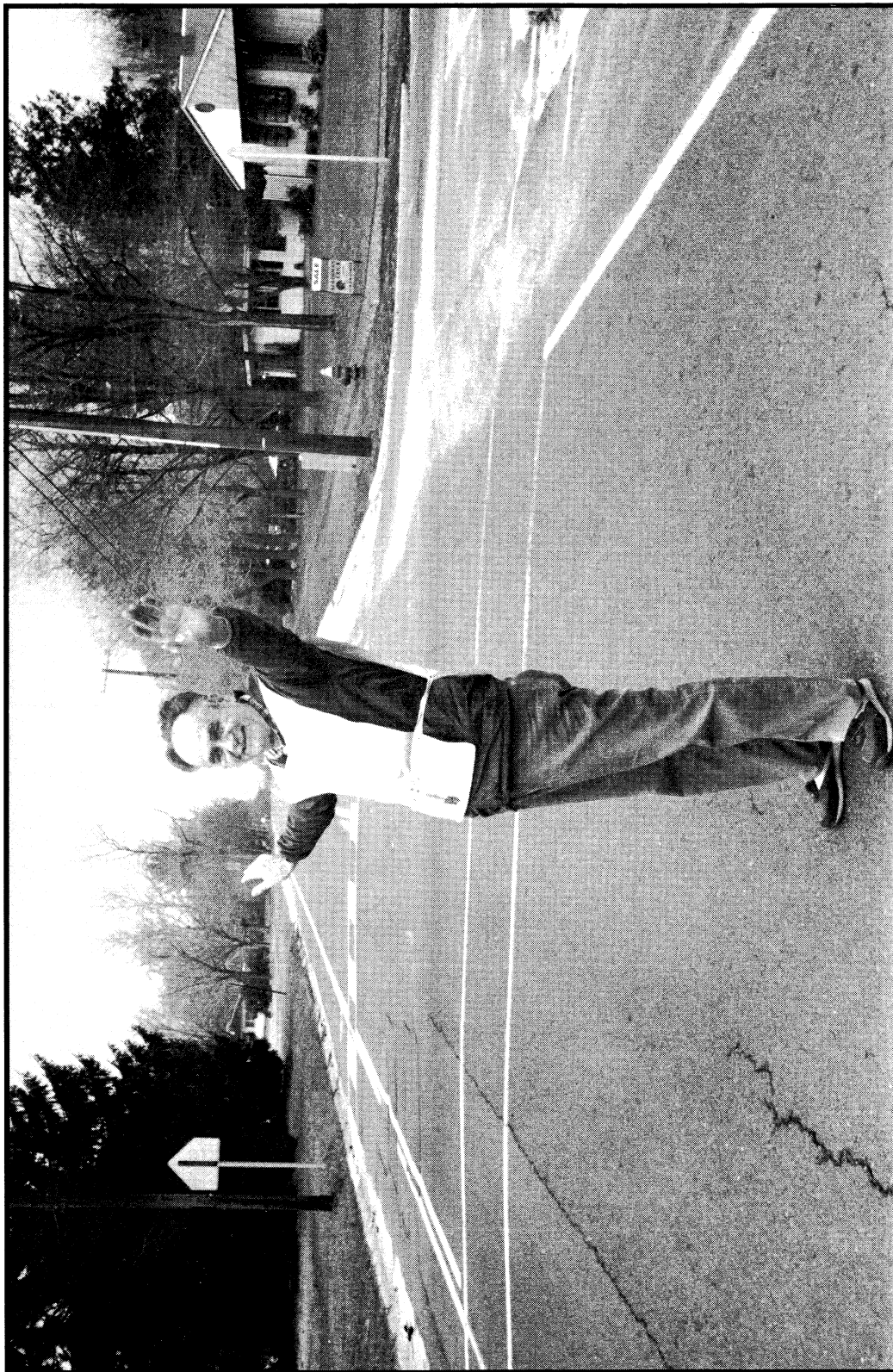


School Activities



School Activities





Crossing guard Jack Yudin ... safety with a smile.

FIRST ANNUAL

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Jersey Homesteads Public School

Public School Auditorium

Jersey Homesteads, New Jersey

Wednesday Evening, June 29th,

1938, 8:15 P. M.

Music Furnished Through Courtesy of Mercer County

W. P. A. Orchestra.

PROGRAM

Processional—

Pomp and Circumstance Elgar

Invocation Rev. Leon Liebreich

Chorus—

Venice Italian Folk Song

Passing By Edward Purcell

Where the Roses Mexican Folk Tune

Sketch—Our Country

Written and presented by Jesse Rabinowitz and Edythe Adlermann

Selection—W. P. A. Orchestra

PLAY — SAUCE FOR THE GOSLINGS

Father Ernest Singer

Mother Rosalind Sussman

Son George Hochfeld

Daughter Rose Narod

Grandmother Alleen Garber

Son's Friend Howard Chasen

Maid Natalie Kleinman

Duet Florence Kaplan — Sylvia Rubenstein

Old Folks at Home

Old Black Joe

PROGRAM

Selection—W. P. A. Orchestra

Monologue—Diana at the Dentist Florence Kaplan

Eighth Grade Message Samuel Silverberg

Address—Thomas B. Harper
County Superintendent of Schools

Chorus—

Vesper Hymn Russian Air

Beautiful Dreamer Stephen Foster

Sleeping Beauty Tschalkowsky

Presentation of Diplomas—
Mr. Mac Adlerman, President of Board of Education

Presentation of Constitutions—
Mr. Benjamin Brown

Benediction Rev. Leon Liebreich

Recessional—

Triumphal March Meyerbeer

GRADUATES

•Edythe Adlerman •Jesse Rabinowitz
Howard Chasen Sylvia Rubinstein
Florence Kaplan Roslyn Sackowitz
Rose Narod •Samuel Silverberg
 Rosalind Susman

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Mac Adlerman
Vice President Clara Katzenellenbogen
District Clerk Rose Lipsky
Anna Eisenberg Anna Petsonk
Fannie Finkler Irving Plungian

Sonia Sokolow

FACULTY

Adelaide F. Wolf, Acting Principal
Fannie Wisnik
Floryce Brown
Kathryn P. Relchey—Helping Teacher
Lora G. Miller—Music Helping Teacher
Edith Brown—Dramatics, W. P. A.

*Honor Students

GRADUATION EXERCISES
JERSEY HOMESTEADS
SCHOOL

School Auditorium • Thursday, June 20
8:15 P.M. SHARP

בנימין בראון יידישע פאלקס-שול
— שלום שול יאר באנקעט —
זונטיק דעם 23טן יוני
3 אזיגער בייטאג
אין סקול אוידיטאריום
איינטריט 50 סענט קינדער 25 סענט



Graduation play, June, 1940.

Bradley goes to future voters

By GALE SCOTT
Staff Writer

Sen. Bill Bradley, his "integrity" speech honed to a series of well-turned phrases after a four-week stint on the university commencement tour, tried it out on two smaller audiences last night, an eighth-grade class in Roosevelt and a high school class in Hopewell Township.

The first stop was in the tiny borough of Roosevelt, where the town's entire 850 residents appeared to have turned out for the occasion.

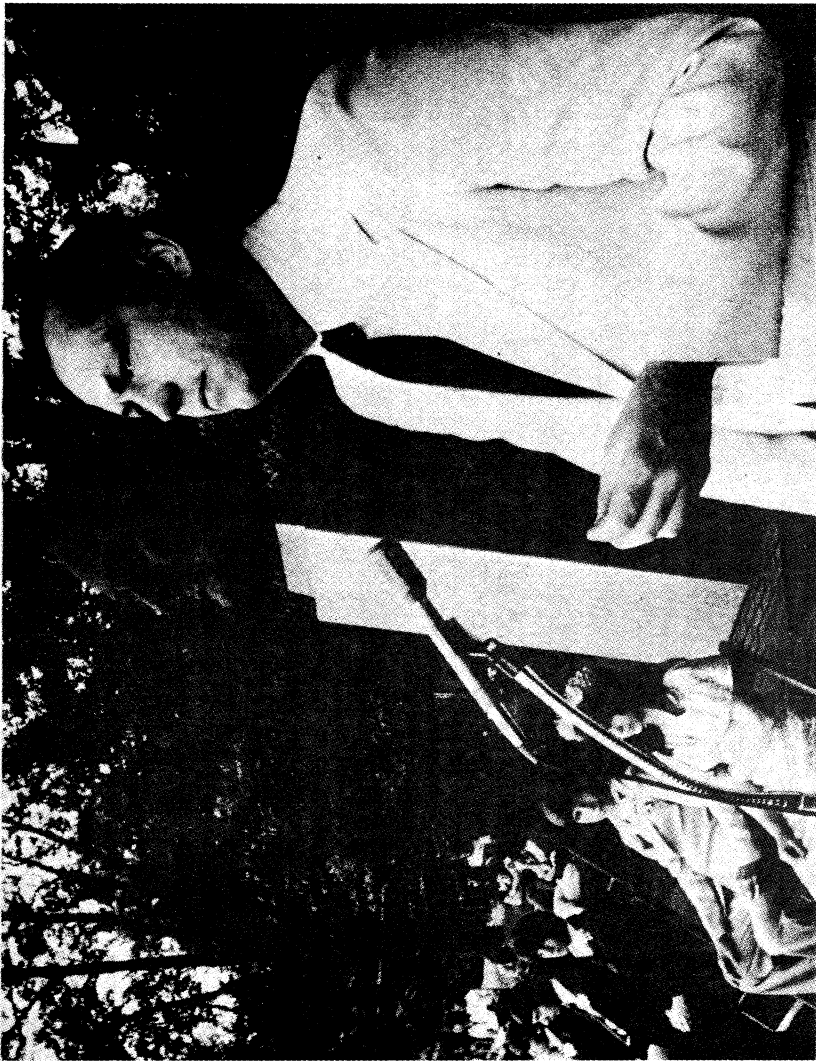
Although Roosevelt officials nearly tripped over each other in welcoming Bradley, heralding his arrival as a victory in the town's on-going quest for federal aid for a \$2-million water-and-sewer plant, the senator said many a political word yesterday.

The day belonged to the grads.

BRADLEY WISELY played it straight. For the seven members of Class of '79, he had words to live by. "You lose your integrity only once," was one theme. "Civility allows pragmatism, the most American of all virtues, to work." was another. "Politics is the art of making correct judgments about people," was a third motto.

He had kind words for Roosevelt as sharing "a rich tradition of what's best about this country — people getting together to build a community." He told the class they were luckier than most to have gone to RPS. After the ceremony, Bradley signed autographs, shook hands and promised his office would "fight every way we can" to get funds to help the town.

Exactly one hour and five minutes after he arrived, he got back in a waiting state police car and was



Staff photo by Dave Schemelio

With bust of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in background, present-day Democrat, Sen. Bill Bradley, addresses graduating class at Roosevelt school.

driven away — richer not only by the warmth of sharing an important occasion with a special group of fellow Democrats, but with an honorary degree from Roosevelt Public School as well.

THE SCENE — and the speech were played out again an hour later in Pennington, where the senator ad-

ressed the Hopewell Valley Regional High School Class of '79 at their baccalaureate service. Integrity was once again the theme.

Following the speech, the grads, their families and friends shared a homemade eight-by-ten-foot cake, and evaluated their 42nd commencement.

Jerri Barth, class of '79, her freck-

led face frowning beneath a wreath of fresh flowers worn by each of the girl graduates, said things could have gone better. "We were all nervous, we stood when we were supposed to sit and we forgot what we were supposed to say," she said. But, she added, "we were all very excited. We never really thought he'd come."



High school students bussed to Allentown High School prior to the 50's when they were bussed to Hightstown High School.



Students passing under the mural on the way to the gym.

Art Excites Interest in Jersey Hamlet

By WALTER H. WAGGONER
Special to The New York Times

ROOSEVELT, N.J.—Nestling here in a wooded western corner of Monmouth County, faintly rural despite the march of progress, an unusual hamlet of 250 families is concerned with, not the bulldozer, or the high-rise apartment, or the interstate highways, but a gigantic mural to be peeled off a wall and shipped to Italy for repairs.

The "Roosevelt Mural," 55 feet long and 11 feet high, is a work of the late Ben Shahn, once the town's most notable resident, and it occupies a wall of the elementary school and community center. Suffering middle-age complaints of settling foundations and varying temperatures, the mural is now being prepared for shipment to Bologna for restoration, probably next spring.

Like many communities within the New York commuting area, Roosevelt has had its traumatic encounter with progress—in this instance, the prospects of a nearby jetport. That peril now seems to have faded.

But only a community like Roosevelt could be expected to worry about the future of the Shahn mural, both a product and a symbol of the borough's 34-year history.

New Deal Origins

With a population today of 800 residents, some of them descendants of the "early settlers" and more than a normal percentage of them in the creative and intellectual arts, Roosevelt is a living monument to the New Deal and the social-economic experimentation of the depressed and desperate nineteen-thirties. It is a little more than an hour's drive from New York.

Carved out of 1,200 acres of woodland a few miles southeast of Hightstown, it

was created by the Federal Government in 1935 as a cooperative community for Eastern European Jewish immigrants struggling in the garment industries of New York and Philadelphia.

An experiment with what proved to be fatal economic weaknesses, it has nonetheless survived as a model of congenial, exurban living. No longer entirely Jewish, and with only a handful of the original inhabitants still here, Roosevelt has generated a unity and loyalty among its residents rare in an age of transition and instant mobility.

Ralph Seligman, a 47-year-old city planner married to the daughter of an original settler, speaks of Roosevelt as a town, although tiny, that has "almost one of everything."

Question of Definitions

To Joshua Hecht, a 40-year-old opera singer who grew up here, Roosevelt is a "shtetl"—"a little town where everybody is involved with everybody else."

Moishe Bressler, who is 68, a teacher of Russian and a noted singer of Yiddish folk songs—and who has earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree at Rutgers since he was 65—yields to no one in his affection for Roosevelt.

But he disagrees with Mr. Hecht's definition of a shtetl, usually thought of as a small Jewish town in pre-World War II Eastern Europe. A shtetl, Mr. Bressler said, should boast a history of seven or eight generations of inhabitants, in addition to having "a certain cultural energy" of its own.

Mr. Shahn, who died in March at the age of 70, painted his mural for the Federal Government shortly after the establishment in 1935 of

what was then called Jersey Homesteads. He fell in love with the community and stayed.

The mural depicts the arrival of Eastern European immigrants on American soil—Albert Einstein and Charles Steinmetz are there; the organizers of the garment workers' trade unions—one can see a young, dark-haired David Dubinsky, and finally a group of planners around a blueprint of the new community.

Mrs. Bernarda Bryson Shahn, widow of the artist, stood petite and chic in a large fur hat and knee-length leather boots the other day pointing out the cracks in the mural.

She explained that the mural would be removed on the top layer of its plaster base, rolled on a giant cylinder and then shipped to Bologna for restoration by an expert who has examined the painting and who has worked on the art damaged in Florence during the floods of 1966.

When the repairs are complete, the mural will be mounted on its own "chassis" or frame and rehung but structurally free of the wall behind it.

Cost Put at \$50,000

The cost of the restoration has been estimated at more than \$50,000, and the Ben Shahn Foundation is in the process of mounting a campaign for collecting the money through contributions, art exhibitions and similar fund-raising activities.

The foundation was established before Mr. Shahn's death, but since then it has functioned mainly to memorialize the artist in the town he loved and influenced.

Despite early hardships and disappointments some homesteaders stayed on, and, more important, so did many of their creative and exceptional

offspring. Ben Shahn attracted still others, such as his old friend Edwin Rosskam, a writer and photographer who moved here 16 years ago.

Mr. Rosskam, a bespectacled, exuberant man of 66, described Roosevelt, with its functional concrete and cinderblock houses, as "a marvelous place for artists to work."

Hardly Picturesque

"But it's not an artists' colony," he added with a chuckle. "You couldn't make this place picturesque if you wanted to."

Estimating that about 10 per cent of the families are supported by the arts—"that's a hell of a lot for a nonartist colony"—he commented:

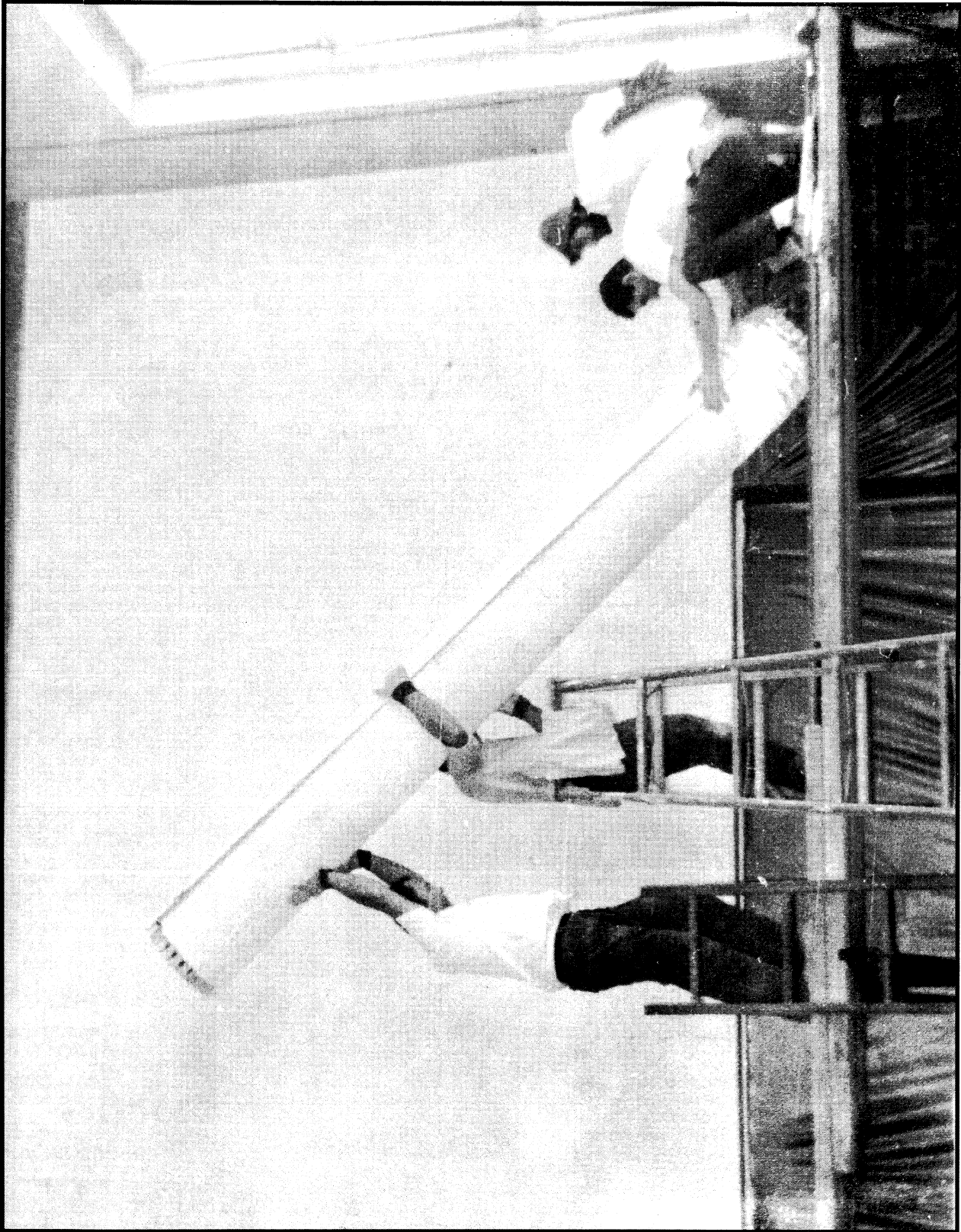
"This town has enough creative people in it that there is an understanding that art is a form of work and you don't interrupt them while they are doing it."

Among the artists and writers who live here are Jacob Landau, Ben Appel, Robert Mueller, Gregorio Prestopino and his wife Elizabeth Dauber, and Franklin Folsom and his wife Mary Elting.

Stefan Martin, son of the artist David Stone Martin, is a 33-year-old painter and one of the few remaining wood engravers in the country. Stefan Martin, whose father used to live here, works in a studio behind his house amid a clutter of paintings, engravings, presses and posters he and others designed for last year's protest against the jetport.

Describing Roosevelt as an "ideal" residence for an artist, he added:

"But it is not suburban. Many types of people live here. The privacy, though, is great for creative people, and it is also wonderful for bringing up children."



Removing the mural for restoration.

Program for Ben Shahn Mural Installation

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

WELCOME - ROBERT H. SMITH
President Ben Shahn Foundation

HON. FRANK THOMPSON
United States Congress
Fourth District New Jersey

SONG - TOM GLAZER

GREETINGS - LEAH SLOSHBERG
Director New Jersey State Museum
on behalf of

Hon. William C. Cahill Governor

MERNA ELLENTUCK
President Board of Education
Borough of Roosevelt

BERTRAM ELLENTUCK
Mayor Borough of Roosevelt

SONG - TOM GLAZER

REMARKS - MARVIN SADEK
Director National Portrait Gallery

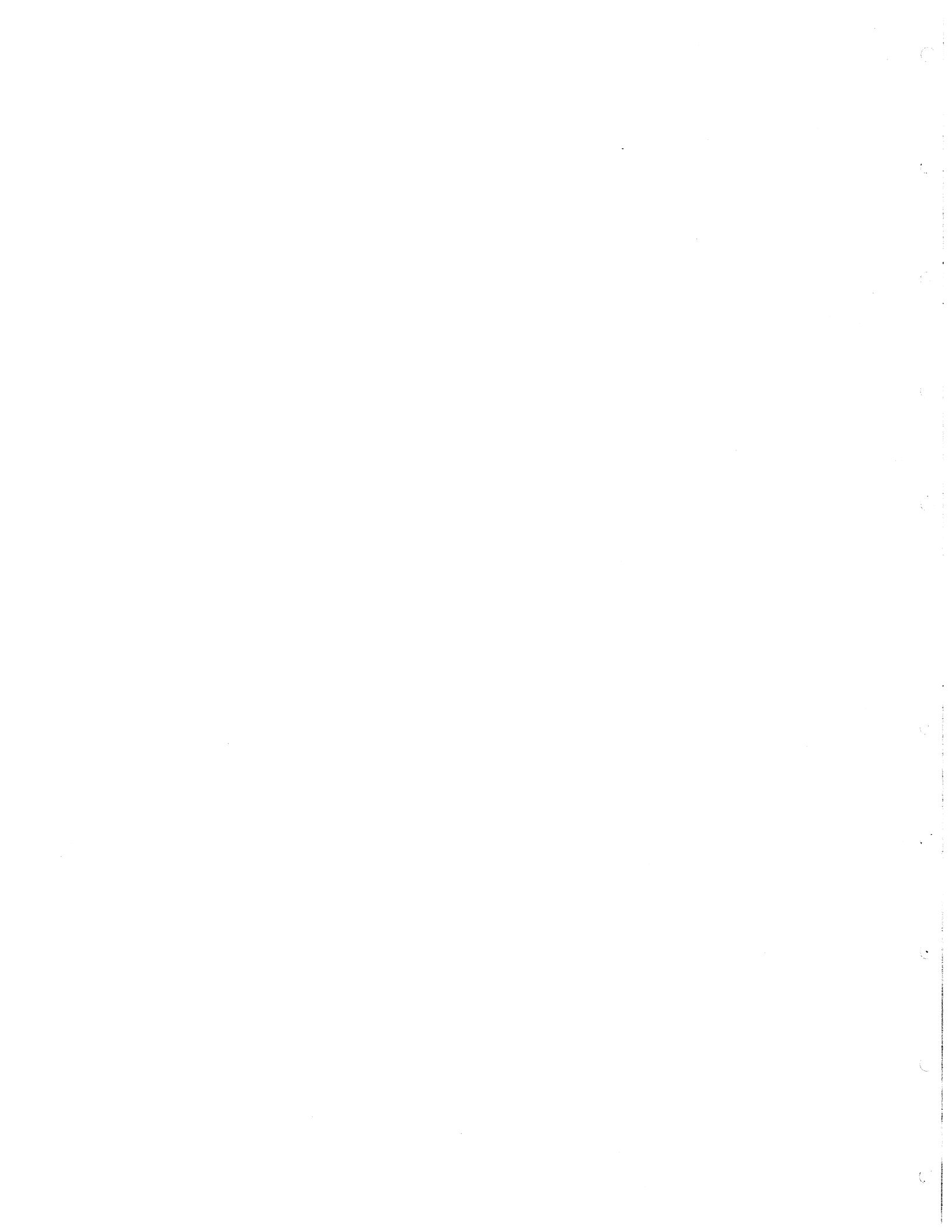
This project was supported in part by a grant
from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Ben Shahn Foundation is dedicated to preserving the artistic ideals of Ben Shahn. The Foundation has involved itself in projects that will encourage American art and artists in serving the artistic principles Ben Shahn expressed.

The first effort by the Foundation is the restoration of the Ben Shahn fresco in Roosevelt, New Jersey. This mural, acknowledged to be one of the finest fresco murals in the United States, was in disrepair and in danger of destruction. Restoration commenced in May of 1971 and is now complete. The ultimate success of the Ben Shahn Foundation depends upon the commitment of persons who believe that Ben Shahn's contribution to our society must be preserved and perpetuated.

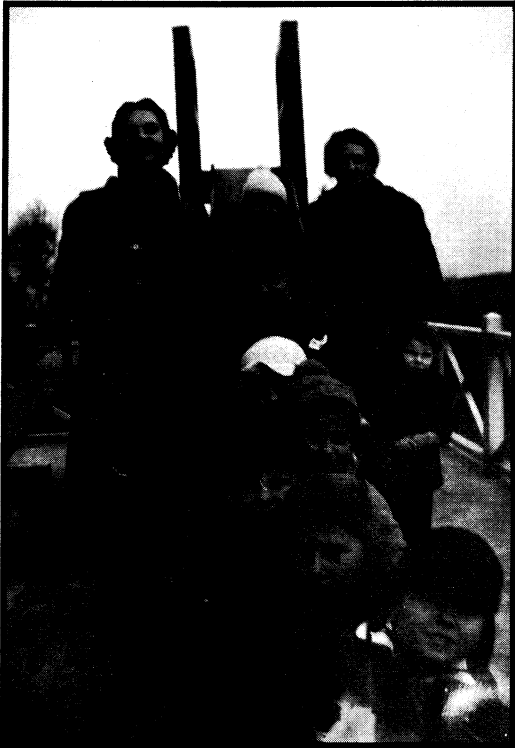
ROBERT H. SMITH · PRESIDENT





Nursery School

Not long after the first settlers arrived in 1936, town organizers established the borough's first nursery school in the Britten House, now occupied by the Mueller family. Through its five decades of existence, nursery school was conducted in a number of locations, including the Hechalutz farm and the Borough Hall on Homestead Lane.



Nursery School at the Britten House.



Nursery School at 4 Homestead Lane.



Roosevelt P. T. A Nursery
10/11/66 Freehold Raceway



The first synagogue, Tamara Drive.

Congregation Anshei

“In many ways this town was like a little ‘shtetl’ (village) where everyone was involved with everyone else. There was the difference that the European ‘shtetl’ usually had the synagogue as its center while (this) synagogue does not seem to have been of central importance in the life of the community, many of whose members were free-thinkers in the old European radical tradition. Those who did seek a place to worship appealed to the government and received permission to hold services at a home known as the Britten House where they rented the basement for \$20 a month. When more space was needed for the Holy Days, the worshippers moved to the attic of the same building. Others attended services at the Hightstown or Perrineville synagogues a few miles away.

“The first president of the group, Congregation Anshei, was Julius Sokoloff. Other early families active in the religious community were the Nisnevitzes, Jacobs, Kesslers, Kaplans, Klatskins, Oblas’ and Brafmans. The first full time rabbi was Gershon Romanoff. As the congregation grew, another appeal was made to the officials in Washington who granted permission to hold services in a construction shed. The congregation and its sisterhood worked to raise funds for a building. In 1953, almost 19 years after the first services were held, a plot of land on Homestead Lane was purchased from the government and in 1955 the cornerstone of the synagogue was laid. The new building (designed by architect Nathan Nadler who came to the Homesteads with his parents and his sister in his early teens) was completed in 1956.”

From “Peddler to Suburbanite: The
History of the Jews of Monmouth
County, New Jersey From the
Colonial Period to 1980”

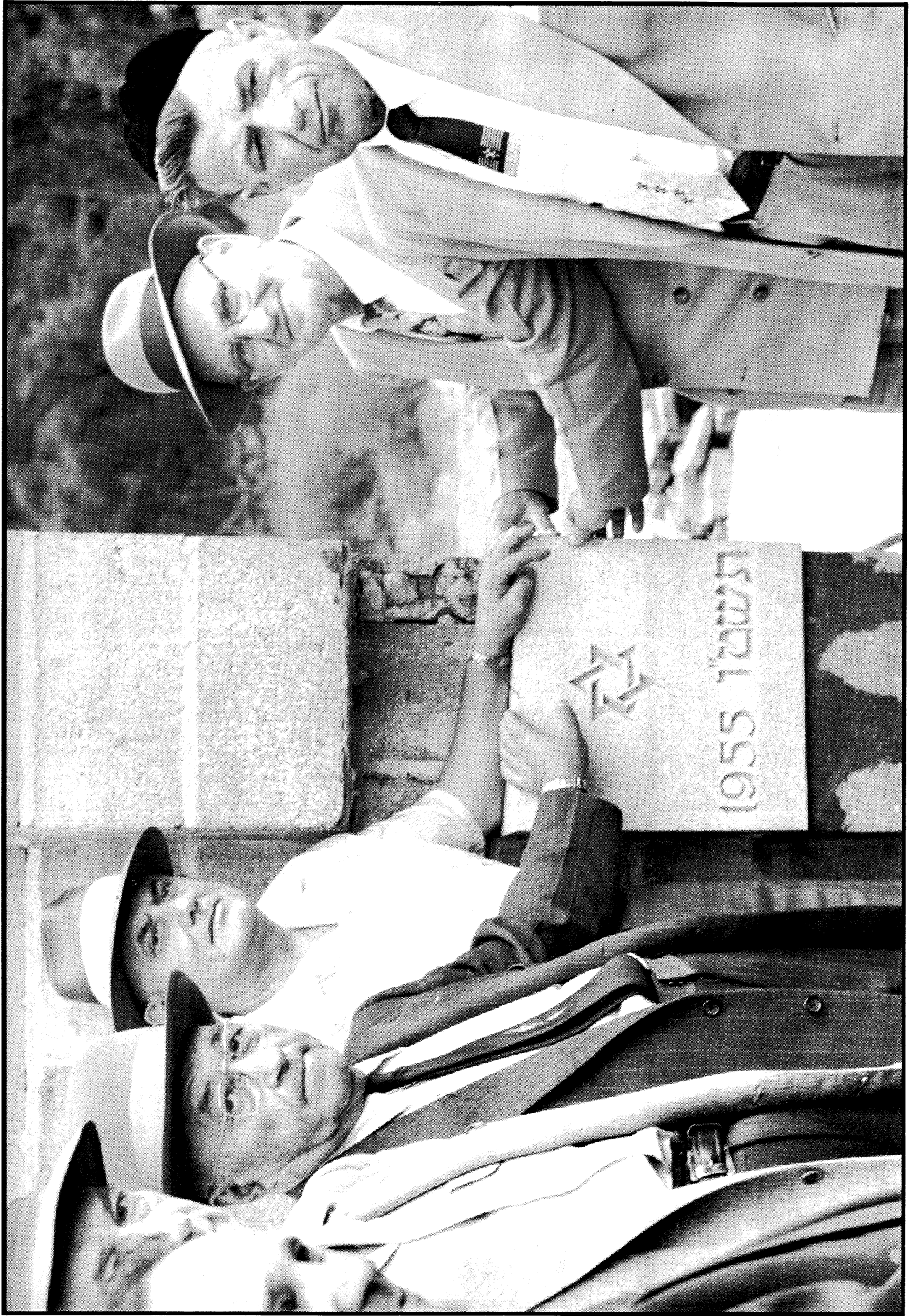
Faces of the Synagogue Sisterhood credited with much of the fundraising for the congregation over the years.



Front (left to right): Minna Oblas, Leatrice Sherak, Molly Bulkin, Lillian Bookman; rear: Fran Bard, Ceil Spelkoman, Ethel Friedman, Doris Kaplan, Shirley Eichler, Sadie Karshenbaum, Lena Deshefsky.



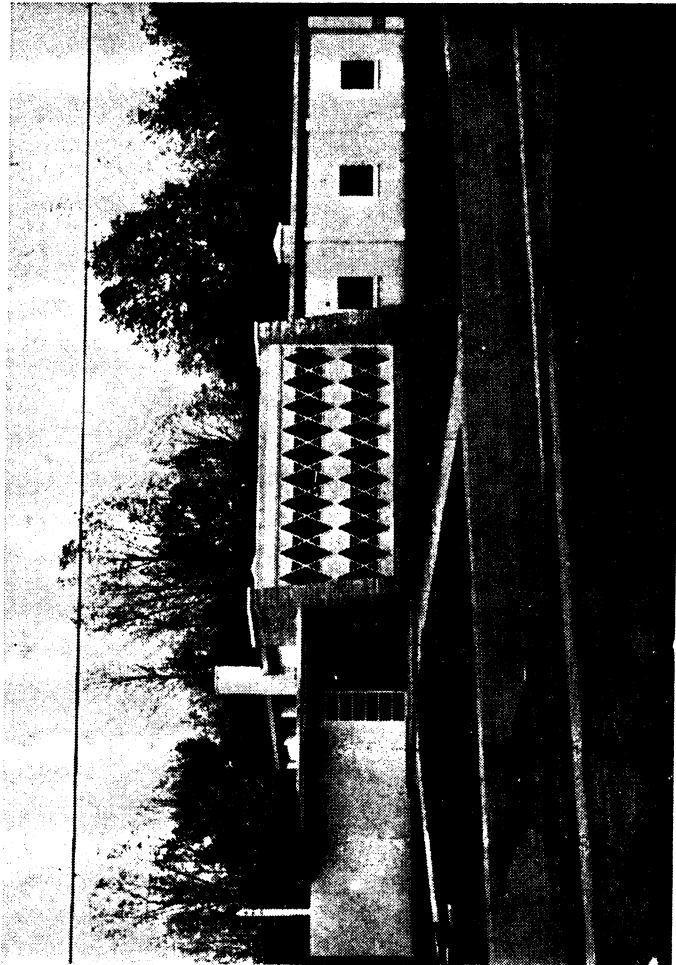
Seated (left to right): Bertha Kaplan, Minna Oblas, Lillian Bookman, Mollie Bulkin, Estelle Goozner; standing (left to right): Fannie Novak, Selma Oblas, Ann Halpern, Shirley Eichler, Sadie Karshenbaum, Lena Deshefsky, Doris Kaplan, Lilly Weisenfeld.



Laying of cornerstone for new synagogue, Homestead Lane.

Program

Dedication of
Synagogue and Community Center



CONGREGATION ANSHEI ROOSEVELT
ROOSEVELT, N. J.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 1956 Teveth 12, 5717
1:00 in the Afternoon

Program

PART I PARADE OF TORAH FROM OLD SYNAGOGUE
1:00 P. M.

PART II INSTALLATION OF TORAH IN NEW SYNA-
GOGUE

PART III DEDICATION OF BUILDING

Hatikvah Cantor Sokoloff

Star Spangled Banner Cantor Sokoloff

Welcome President M. Sokoloff

Master of Ceremonies Mayor I. Flicker