

The Great Depression, Morris County, NJ
as seen through the pages of the Daily Record
October-December 1936

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – Despite increases in the motor fuel tax and the alcoholic beverage tax – major sources of state income – New Jersey’s fiscal officers estimated today there will be no surplus for relief when the legislature returns. Abram M. Vermeullen, chief accountant in the State Comptroller’s Office, pointed out that an increase of \$1,623,034 in the beverage tax for the last fiscal year was used for relief in the last \$4,000,000 diverted by Governor Hoffman. The \$1,198,437 surplus in motor fuel tax for the calendar [sic] year 1935 was placed in the 1936 highway budget. The increases in the two taxes represented the difference between anticipated returns and actual returns from the taxes....” (Oct. 2, 1936, p.1)

“Morristown’s relief crisis, a situation of grave concern a month ago, has apparently passed, it was revealed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last night by Relief Director Nelson Butera. He predicted the town can carry its unemployed until the end of the year without any emergency appropriation. Three alleviating factors—employment of 87 cases by the WPA during September, the impending distribution of an additional one and one half millions by the State Financial Assistance Commission to municipalities and the expected early receipt of Morristown’s SFAC reimbursements—have worked together to smooth the situation. Because of WPA hiring, Butera reported only 95 cases representing 389 persons on the Town’s relief rolls on October 1. At the aldermanic meeting September 4, he listed 183 as the August case load, an increase itself of 28 over the July case total. The October 1 case drop is the first decrease since Morristown assumed its own relief in May. Monthly expenditures were: For June, \$2,530; for July, \$2,722; for August, \$3,187.50, and for September, \$3,189. Butera warned last night, however, that the figure of \$3,189 for last month is not indicative of the real cost of relief. He listed \$719 as having been spent by the County Welfare Board for unemployable cases in Morristown, and \$252 for administration of Town relief, making a real total of \$4,160 for September. Further, Butera believes that the rising cost of foodstuffs has made it imperative to increase that part of a case budget that goes towards the purchase of food...Butera said the local WPA sewing room has furnished many clothes to cut relief costs substantially.” (Oct. 3, 1936, p.1)

“News of the appropriation of WPA funds for operation of the Morris County Junior College came simultaneously today with a reiteration by Dean Arthur Platt that the college will run without help of Federal monies. Recalling to mind the “temporary nature” of government funds for junior colleges, Dean Platt rephrased today his argument for permanency of the institution here. He sketched the present basis for financial support, including tuition, the donation of the Maple Avenue School and its heating and lighting by the Morristown Board of Education, and the bearing of office expenses by the Board of Freeholders....The adult education division of the WPA at Washington announced the allotment of government funds today. But the Morris County Junior College had already planned its finances. Dean Platt said the WPA aid will not be accepted.” (Oct. 3, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – With the continuation of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Morristown National Historical Park for another six months assured, the National Park Service today outlined the program of development that is to be carried out during the coming eighth period of emergency conservation work....One of the most important projects...will be the restoration of the historic Fort Nonsense. To complete the restoration of this structure, Park

Service estimates show that 1,500 man days of labor will be required....it is expected the material costs will be slight. Another part of Superintendent Elbert S. Cox's program will be planting along the north entrance road to the park. This will require setting several thousand plants of various kinds, trees, shrubbery, and will require an estimated 1,400 man days of work. In order to protect the timber stands in the park, an extensive program of three insect pest control [sic] is to be undertaken. This has been one of the major problems at Morristown, and in the past several methods of control have been used, including spraying from an autogyro....1,400 man days of labor....Other points...will be tree preservation, pruning and surgery and spraying which will require 850 man days of work and control of insect pests on other types of plants which will require 125 man days labor....1,850 man days of labor on archaeological [sic] research in Jockey Hollow and Fort Nonsense...an important part of the program for the eight [sic] period of ECW will be educational and guide work....1,250 man hours for education work....[many other aspects of landscaping and their man hours are detailed] Approximately \$16,000 will be needed for the Morristown park's eighth period program, in addition to the payment of CCC enrollees and the purchase of their subsistence....Payment and subsistence for the CCC enrollees during the coming six months will require an estimated \$250 per day." (Oct. 3, 1936, p. 1 & 6)

"A survey of Morristown traffic conditions is contemplated in a WPA project, application for which was voted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last night....Morristown's share of the cost...would be \$2,070 and the Federal government would bear a cost of \$17,288...." (Oct. 3, 1936, p.1)

"Thirty-five youths from Morris County are to be selected for October enrollment in the CCC camps....Five are to be from Morristown, three from Dover, and the remainder from the other county towns. They must be single and between the ages of 17 to 28....Enrollment in Morristown and Dover, towns of more than 10,000 population, is being approved, under a new set-up, by Commissioner W. J. Ellis of the state Department of Institutions and Agencies. The County Welfare Board has been named the approving agent for applications from towns of under 10,000 population...." (Oct. 3, 1936, p.2)

"**BOONTON** --The Board voted favorably to a request of Rev. Andrew V. Stefan, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, for WPA aid. Authorization was given for the preparation of an application, which will be returned to the Board for final approval. The aid is sought for a playground, opposite the church, for the benefit of children in the hill section. The property will be leased to the town with clauses protecting the church, which owns the property....Fred McCoy, chairman of the building and grounds committee, was authorized to spend money for the completion of the WPA project at the municipal tennis courts. He announced that the fence has arrived from the WPA but that corner posts and a gate will have to be provided by the town plus some labor although some WPA funds are available for the completion of the project...." (Oct. 6, 1936, p.1)

Also in Boonton, Oct. 6, 1936, p.1, a sign of the times: "The Board on recommendation of street committee granted permission to Branch 13, American Federation of Hosiery Workers, to string an "Elect Roosevelt" banner across Main street at the corner of Church and Main streets under the auspices of the Labor Non-Partisan League. This is the first time in many years that a Democratic sign has appeared in such prominence."

"**WHARTON** --W. P. Curtis, supervising principal, reported that Wilbur Cregar, associated with WPA approached him on the matter of having the students fingerprinted. The subject was passed on as received and filed...." (Oct. 7, 1936, p.1)

Sign of the times: “The itinerary of the airship Hindenburg in an American exhibition flight Friday prior to its last departure of the year for Germany was announced today....The zeppelin will take off from the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in the morning and land late Friday afternoon before departing for Germany that night. The itinerary during the day will carry the Hindenburg from Lakehurst to Elizabeth, Newark, Morristown, Passaic and Paterson; [locations in New York State and New York City, Connecticut, Massachusetts are listed], New Brunswick, Trenton, and Philadelphia....” (Oct. 7, 1936, p.2)

“New Jersey is far ahead of other states in regard to legislation and administration of relief for dependent children, mothers’ assistance, and for the blind,” said Dr. Ellen C. Potter, Director of Medicine of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies, who addressed over 150 members and guests at the monthly dinner meeting of the Morris County Association of Welfare Workers last evening. She further stated that New Jersey citizens need not be ashamed of the relief administered in the state as it is not as bad as some people believe it to be. Since New Jersey relief legislation was enacted long before the Federal program, crippled children’s work is far ahead of that of other states and the Federal Children’s Bureau is using the New Jersey set-up as a model to sell to other states....”England,” said Dr. Potter, “has taken the bull by the horns and set up an unemployment insurance program which functions like clockwork, and which the United States might seek to model after.”...” (Oct. 7, 1936, p.6)

“ “Municipal Economy” was the subject of an informing address by Alvin Burger, Manager of the Municipal Research Department of the N. J. State Chamber of Commerce at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club yesterday....”Real economy,” he said, “consists not necessarily in cutting expenses to the bone but in seeing that every dollar is spent wisely.”...Employment in New Jersey is now as good or better than 1929-30 and New Jersey is coming out of the depression in excellent shape. This improvements [sic] is taking place in spite of outrageous taxes on real estate in many localities. The speaker pleaded for more economy in government before new taxes are added—even for relief....” (Oct. 8, 1936, p.2)

“The hiring of 20 persons for a complete check on all traffic details is proposed in the WPA application approved by the Board of Aldermen and now in Washington for consideration. It involves a total of \$19,000, the bulk of which is to be paid by the federal government. The work to be done includes a traffic count by hours, a season count, register of the flow of traffic at congested points, tabulation of the number of trucks, buses and passenger cars, check on the parking problems, complete tabulation of accident reports and causes, the effect of traffic lights on the flow of traffic and by-pass routes....The complete figures ...will do much to help work out the problems facing the local police department....Detailed statistical [sic] maps on hourly traffic, parking, accidents, through routes and other data will be made up. The proposed plan calls for 264 man months of work from the relief ranks, and 276 man months of work to be paid for by the federal government and six by the sponsor. It will not displace any of the sponsor’s paid employees. Included in the people to be hired would be nine intermediate enumerators, nine skilled enumerators and two engineer-draftsman [sic] besides the project supervisors. The federal government would pay for the wages of all but the supervisor and the equipment and the latter will include many articles that can be used regularly when the survey is finished. The total of the U.S. share is \$17,288 and for the town \$2,076....The biggest project, though, would appear to be getting the Aldermen to do anything on the recommendations after they are made.” (Oct. 9, 1936, p.7)

Sign of the times:

“The great Zeppelin, the Hindenburg, swooped low over the Columbia Meadows, possibly its future home-site in America, as the big lighter than air craft was viewed by thousands in Morristown and vicinity at 8 o’clock this morning. The trip, arranged by Esso Marketers and covering New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and the New England states, had special significance to Morristown as the great gas bag diverged from its announced course and swung over Morristown. Only yesterday was it announced that the Normandie water works on the Columbia meadows was being very seriously considered by the Graf Zeppelin Company as the American terminal for the transoceanic flights of the dirigibles....Originally the publicity for the Standard Oil trip today was that the Hindenburg was to fly over Morristown but yesterday the same firm announced a changed itinerary with the statement that the nearest it would come to Morristown was Elizabeth. Consequently many were caught unawares this morning and failed to see the big machine. Town Clerk Nelson S. Butera was one who wasn’t much surprised for he had been told that if it were at all possible, the Hindenburg would circle Morristown with the particular object being to fly low over the proposed base and take certain recordings and tests. This was exactly what was done and the zep dropped down a couple of hundred feet as it approached Morristown, swung around the town and returned to its original course by passing directly, and very low, over what may be its future home. So close was the big ship that in practically every section persons could rightfully claim “it went right over my house”. It seemed just as close to those in the far end of the Third Ward as to those who lived in the opposite end of town in the First Ward....” (Oct. 9, 1936, p.1)

“The Morristown branch of the Needlework Guild of America is looking for charitably minded men and women to help in its work of securing new garments for the needy. Each member undertakes to give two new garments yearly, or a money donation. The annual “ingathering” is held in November all over the country, and last year 1650 garments were collected here in Morristown by the local directors and distributed among the following charities: All Souls’ Hospital, Central Bureau of Social Service, Market Street Mission, Morris County Children’s Home, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Memorial Hospital Annex, Mount Carmel Guild, Old Ladies’ Home, Salvation Army, Sisters of Charity, Visiting Nurse Association. Also the Bonnie Brae Home, Millington, the Tuberculosis Hospital at Shonghum and the Berkshire Industrial Farm for Boys at Canaan, Conn....” (Oct. 10, 1936, p.6)

Eight thousand meals were provided by the Salvation Army last year, and 3,500 homeless men were given a night’s lodging. These numbers, high as they are, are not the highest in the records of the Salvation Army Headquarters on Speedwell avenue. They are, however, a fair indication of the number of men who must be given food and lodging next year, for every year the Salvation accepts the responsibility of protecting thousands of men, women, and children from starvation and cold. The Salvation Army gave assistance to 60 families in Morristown last year. Some of these were helped with the rent, some were given coal and food, and in a few cases it was possible to find a position for the head of the family. Several hundreds pieces of clothing were distributed among needy families, and 250 poor children received presents at Christmas. In summer, as many children as possible from these unfortunate families are given a vacation at a camp maintained by the Salvation Army near Butler. Last summer 22 undernourished children were sent to camp to receive the benefits of wholesome food, fresh air, and sunshine. The Salvation Army also holds meetings each week at which spiritual guidance and encouragement are given. The work of the Salvation Army will be carried on next year under the support of the Morris Community Chest.” (Oct. 13, 1936, p.3)

“All employees in the Morristown schools were voted a 5 percent restoration of salary cuts by the Board of Education last night. The raises, to become effective on January 1...will mean

\$15,000 is added to the employees' yearly buying power. Teachers, janitors, and clerks were cut 10 percent in July of 1932 and another 5 per cent in February of 1934....Full restorations are pending complete economic recovery. The Board was unanimous in the action. The Board received a request from the Junior College for aid in sponsoring students attending the college sessions. To secure the National Youth's Administration's support, the students must be sponsored by some organization, and the faculty of the college desired the Board of Education to do this sponsoring. The total allotment that the college would receive would be in the neighborhood of \$4,000 in tuitions and would help several of the students in attending the school. It was decided to investigate the affair more carefully and a report will be made soon regarding whether or not the Board will do the sponsoring...." (Oct. 14, 1936, p.1)

"HANOVER – Chairman Arthur Dolan of the Hanover Township Committee reported last night that, with the receiving of an easement from the owner of a small portion of the triangle at Route No. 10 and Troy Hills road, Whippany, the final obstacle has been removed and the contemplated Whippanong Memorial Park will materialize within a short time. A WPA loan has been granted for the project which will include the grading and landscaping, placing of a tablet and a mortar which has already been secured and is temporarily in front of the Whippany Fire House until the completion of the park...." (Oct. 15, 1936, p.1)

"Old age pensions increased during September but others remained about stationary or were reduced, the Welfare Board reported to the Board of Freeholders yesterday. In the old age there was an increase of 55 cases to a total of 852 with costs of \$15,777.22. The permanent relief showed...19 to 219, and a cost of \$3,200. There were 44 non-support cases investigated, this including ten new ones. The number of children under care of the Children's Home remained at 288 and cost \$5,584.53, while the blind also remained unchanged, 22, with a cost of \$230. Under charge of the State Board of Children's Guardians there were 149 children, costing \$3,558.60, of which the county only paid 50 per cent while there were 18 federal cases, costing \$256, the county paying one-third of these. Under the heading of home life department there were 544 cases at a cost of \$6,355.19, and in the Welfare House there were 97 patients, a reduction of five." (Oct. 15, 1936, p.1)

"Tax collections for Morris County are better this year than for the past five years, County Treasurer Fletcher Fritts reported to the Board of Freeholders....The percentage of collections is better for the same date for any year since 1932. Some tax money is still due the county from 1933. Out of 38 municipalities, thirty had paid in full as of October 1 with \$50,293.60 outstanding from eight others. This is in comparison with \$41,703.04 still due from 1935...." (Oct. 15, 1936, p.1)

"The regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the Morris County Children's Home have been resumed. William G. Hurtzig, president, urged the individual members of the Board to do "their best missionary work" to bring about the establishment of a vocational school in Morris County. Spirited discussion followed, as the Morris County Children's Home is no longer responsible for the board of children over 16 years of age. This age limit, effective in the county since June, is throwing many dependent children on their own with little or no vocational preparation. The former age limit of 18 years made it more possible for the home to carry through vocational plans for children and have them placed in suitable jobs at the time of their discharge from the home's care. The danger of drifting makes training for these adolescents an immediate need in Morris County...." (Oct. 15, 1936, p.6)

"TRENTON – More than 160 lawyers are to be employed on three WPA projects to index and

codify existing statutes. The announcement was made by Milton Unger of Newark to the general council of the State Bar Association....the projects will begin November 1. The three jobs are the digesting and annotating of workmen's compensation decisions, the New Jersey annotations for the restatement of the law under sponsorship of the American Law Institute, solidation [sic] of State statutes. Salaries will be from \$25 to \$35 a week. Other projects submitted by the committee and still before WPA were listed by Unger as: [following is a list of ten projects] “ (Oct. 16, 1936, p.1)

“Morristown's restoration of five per cent of teachers' salary cuts, although following the action of some other County schools in this respect, is timely enough to warrant thorough commendation. Because of the recent business spurt and because nobody's dollar buys as much as it did two years ago, it is not too early to suggest that the school board begin to consider the eventual restoration of the earliest ten per cent cuts the teachers have faced patiently for over four years. It is some consolation to see one's pay rise five per cent, but it is something else again to watch food prices soar twenty per cent. When County schools began to cancel pay reductions last Spring, there was undoubtedly some candid admission abroad that teachers get off to a rather bad start anyway, because their pay envelopes are discouragingly small in relation to the importance of their positions in a functioning society....” (editorial, Oct. 16, 1936)

And for a bit of comic relief: “Additional proof that the more human beings change the more they are the same seems offered in an archeological discovery just announced. A sculpture found in an ancient Mayan Indian city of Guatemala portrays a public meeting. And the sculptor who carved this work more than a thousand years ago might very well have had a modern political rally or lecture as his subject. For among the figures shown in this lintel is the pompous speaker, demanding attention; one of the audience poking another as if asking what it's all about; two gentlemen arguing vigorously between themselves; and two other men slumped listlessly, apparently engrossed in their own thoughts.” (editorial, Oct. 16, 1936)

“WASHINGTON, (AP) – The government won tactical victories in the Supreme Court today when the nine justices refused to review litigation challenging the constitutionality of three New Deal laws. The court declined to pass on an appeal filed by J. Edward Jones, New York securities dealer, questioning the constitutionality of the 1933 “truth in securities” act requiring registration of stocks before public sale. It also refused to review an attack on provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act and of the 1935 emergency relief appropriation measure.... The action taken was purely on procedural grounds and had no direct relation to the merits of the legislation....” (Oct. 19, 1936, p. 1)

“New Jersey hesitates, and is likely to balk against going along with the federal program related to old-age annuities and unemployment insurance. It does not mean, however, that the people of this state are opposed to the proposal that something definite shall be done to safeguard the interest of those who have faithfully worked and may not have gained a competency, and those who are forced into idleness for a period of time by unfavorable conditions of employment. The State of New Jersey wisely set up a commission to study the federal plan of old-age annuities and unemployment insurance. The commission finds it impossible to favorably recommend state indorsement of the plan. The commission....has drafted...a plan for setting up a state old-age annuity and unemployment insurance system. Next Friday, at Trenton, a hearing will be had on these commission bills...It is a chance to discuss, pro and con, the commission's plans....It is a matter of such great importance that all who are interested in social security should not fail to be on hand at Trenton next Friday.” (editorial from the Elizabeth Journal, published in the Morristown Daily Record Oct. 20, 1936, p.4)

“It would hardly be doing violence to the sense of the words to say that the last seven years have taught the average American that he is, after all, his brother’s keeper. He is his brother’s keeper because in this great democracy the responsibility for preventing and alleviating the suffering which is born of economic disaster rests upon everyone. It was recognition of this fact which led federal, state and city governments to take over the whole relief business and to make care for the destitute and the jobless a charge upon the public treasury. But there is still another way in which the individual citizen bears a responsibility. Government relief work is only part of the job. To feed the hungry, clothe the naked, keep absolute destitution at arm’s length—this is not enough, not nearly enough, although it is all the government can do. The needs of those who are less fortunate than ourselves are not met by an order of groceries, a ton of coal and a rent check. What remains to be done for them we must do as an act of private charity. It is this unfinished job that is undertaken by the various community chests and councils which are grouped together under the Mobilization for Human Needs....They include hospital services—the jobless man’s family, you know, is just as apt to need hospitalization as the employed man’s family—visiting nurse services, child care enterprises, and the whole assortment of activities which help to restore or maintain morale among the depression’s victims. There is, for instance, the matter of vocational training. There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who are victims of what might be called depression shell shock. They need to be helped to fit themselves for the jobs which returning prosperity will open to them. Someone has to extend them a helping hand; if privately-supported agencies, drawing their funds from community chests, cannot do it, nobody else will. There are hundreds of thousands of children who have had a bleak time of it these last few years. They have grown to young manhood, and womanhood by now, many of them—idle, untrained, cursed with a leisure which they cannot use profitably unless someone gives them opportunity and shows them how. That “someone,” again, must be provided by the community’s organized givers or by no one....” (editorial, Oct. 21, 1936)

“DENVILLE – A promise that street lighting will be resumed in 1937—if by the end of this year, at least 60 percent of the 1936 tax levy has been collected—was reiterated by Township Chairman Joseph P. Hughes last night. His pledge followed a report on township finances by Auditor John W. Wehman of Morris Plains. Wehman said that by September 30—or at the end of the first three quarters of 1936—forty-eight and a half percent of the current year’s levy had been collected. Hughes had made as another provision necessary to street lighting the realization of 30 percent of delinquent taxes. This mark was easily exceeded by September 30 when...42 percent had been collected. Asked whether the report was cause for rejoicing, Hughes answered cautiously that 1936 collections are not above those of 1935. He saw taxpayers as “having to hustle” to meet their obligations by the year’s end. Wehman...explained the provisions of the new state budget law, under which enough must be provided to carry a municipality through any given year, and under which all commitments must be backed by appropriations. Exceptions are made in the case of emergency appropriations....” (Oct. 22, 1936, p.1)

“Steady progress is revealed in the eighth monthly report of the WPA County Planning Project located in the Morris County Court House. The report discloses that the base map prepared with the co-operation of the County Engineer is completed. The original tracings are in twelve sections and are at the scale of 2,000 feet to an inch. An outline map of the county at the scale of 4,000 feet to an inch has also been prepared. On separate prints of this map are to be shown such basic information about Morris County as the relative population density of the several municipalities in the county; the areas of the county devoted to industry, business, residential development, farming and forested lands; the relative land values in the county and numerous other general facts about Morris county that are required for an understanding of its growth and development. This project is one of the results of the enthusiastic interest of Major George W.

Farny in Morris County. The work has had the benefit of the guidance of the New Jersey State Planning Board and the Regional Plan Association....The long range objective...is a map of the county showing the physical improvements needed and the order of their importance....” (Oct. 22, 1936, p. 1 & 7)

“Alderman Abe Gurevitz showed more than ordinary political acumen at a meeting of town fathers at the Municipal Building early this month. The occasion was a decision on whether to apply for a WPA project to survey traffic conditions in and near Morristown—a job costing Town and Federal government a total of \$19,000. Gurevitz turned to the six Republican aldermen on the nine-man board. “Now if you’re going to vote for the project,” said he, “don’t call it boondoggle later on.” And the proposal for application was approved as nine yeas were recorded. Perhaps Gurevitz was not pleading for political preferment [sic] of the Democratic party, but only for consistency in thought. It must be remembered that the Federal government only offers money for WPA projects, while application for them must be made by municipal boards. Thus, it would be illogical for a Republican member of a town board to vote for all WPA projects and then later criticize the administration for unbalancing the budget. If a Republican alderman were to be entirely consistent, he would either vote down projects and then attack the administration, or else he would vote for projects and then keep his mouth shut on lopsided budgets and mounting taxation. Such consistency would transcend party lines.” (editorial, Oct. 23, 1936)

“Spurred on by a new record in applications for FHA financing, the Morristown Better Housing Committee signalized its entry today into the fourth week of its “Modernize for Winter” drive by announcing that it would continue the drive into the coming month.... Established last week, the new record set a six-day high for volume of FHA applications of \$22,400 topping the previous weekly mark by \$2,000....Tentative plans for the November drive call for the arranging of speaking dates before local civic organizations, an essay contest on some topic pertaining to housing among students at the high school, and an “open home week” during which a newly constructed house will be open for inspection to illustrate recent advances in housing facilities...” (Oct. 24, 1936, p.1)

“**NEWARK**, (AP) --Both the Democrats and Republicans held a number of large rallies throughout the state last night....Jesse Owens, Negro Olympics star, told a Newark Republican meeting last night that “under the New Deal Negroes of the South have been forced into virtual slavery.” “The New Deal alphabetical agencies are yokes” leading his race back to slavery, he said, and he declared every Democratic vote would “tighten the yoke.” He said he had been treated in Europe as an equal of the White race and had been honored by notables, but declared President Roosevelt had not sent him a word of congratulations on his victories for the United States. He asked his audience, many of whom were Negroes: “If he didn’t do that for me, what is he going to do for you?”....Speaking at a Republican meeting at Morristown, Mrs. Ruth Hanna Sims said: “If we lose the election, the constitution is gone and all we will have left is the Supreme Court.” ” (Oct. 24, 1936, p.1)

“**EAST HANOVER** – Republican County Chairman E. Bertram Mott cracked down upon the two Democratic Assembly candidates in this county who are running around telling how the Republican candidates for the same offices are at odds over economics and taxes for relief, at a big meeting in the school house here last night. Mott...declared the Democrats proved themselves to be the most inconsistent and misinformed professors of political science he has run across in many a day. And the county chairman is an old war horse at the game. “These two Democratic Assembly candidates are drawing a red herring across the trail,” said Mott. “it’s

the sales tax, and they are trying to make something out of it but can't.....But the most asinine, the most ludicrous and most undefendable position which they have taken is in demanding no taxes for relief, yet subscribing and defending the New Deal which is honeycombed with taxes. For every bit of food a man buys under the hidden taxes of the New Deal it costs him 20 cents in taxes. That goes for food, medicines and every necessity of life. I was for a limited tax. One that would exempt food and medicine. I am for economy....Now these Democrats are coming around belly-aching about the possibility of a few cents tax. They want economy in state government, which they are getting under Republican administration, while their own Democratic administration at Washington is spending two billion dollars and taking in one billion. And yet they have the nerve to talk to an intelligent electorate about economy." Mott also spoke of illegal registrations in New York state, some in Elizabeth and other sections...." (Oct. 24, 1936, p.1)

"Bitter party enmity having reached new heights in the campaign, it is heartening to see Republican and Democratic election board members assemble and discuss Election Day problems in nonpartisan fashion. This was done Wednesday evening at the Women's Community Club. New problems arising from the presence of C.C.C. camp voters in Morristown, Whippany, Denville, and Butler were cleared up. It was established that any camper not registered before Election Day must be approved by three of the four on an election board before he can be registered, provided, of course, he proves residence of one year in the state and five months in the county....It was further emphasized that persons standing in line outside the polls at the closing hour may vote, no matter how long the line may be...." (editorial, Oct. 24, 1936)

From the more things change department, in the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Oct. 28, 1936, p.4: "PHILADELPHIA – The class struggle aspect of the presidential campaign ...reaches full heat in Pennsylvania. Organized workers and the lower income groups in the industrial centers have in many cases worked up a hysterical devotion to Roosevelt which sometimes approaches fanatical frenzy....Grimly opposed to Roosevelt and his labor allies are the industrial tycoons of this great state. Also worked up into a lather, they have launched a titanic effort of money and propaganda to keep Pennsylvania's 36 electoral votes, so vital to Landon, from the clutches of Roosevelt and—as they see it—of John L. Lewis. They have taken control of the battered but active Republican machine which has served them so loyally in the past and hope, with the aid of white collar and other conservatives, farmers, and frightened workers, to save the Keystone state. This is more than a political fight. In the background are threats of strike and violence and the knowledge of stores of machine guns and gas in steel mills and factories....There is spirit, drive, youth, direction, and leadership on the Democratic side, as opposed to superior financial resources and the inherent conservatism of this second largest state in the Union...."

"Announcement was made at the civic progress and loyalty mass meeting in the auditorium of the Alexander Hamilton School last evening that in addition to the awarding of an automobile and numerous valuable prizes at the close of the second phase of the campaign, the sum of \$500 is to be given as a "Christmas stocking" to the underprivileged children of Morristown. The sum is to be divided among the churches of the city in proportion to the size of their congregations and will be administered by officials designated by the churches...." (Oct. 31, 1936, p.1)

"Completion of the third of a series of WPA projects in Morris Plains was announced today by District Director J. Francis Moroney. The third project consisted of the construction of 220 feet of 24-inch storm sewer on Canfield place and Dayton road, and 50 feet of 12-inch sewer, connecting with two catch basins, needed to carry off surface water, before permanent

improvements of curbing and paving could be undertaken. Plans have been made for these improvements for the past three years, but work has been delayed due to lack of funds for drainage work. The project employed an average of 13 men....Another recently completed project in Morris Plains was the trimming of trees in various portions of the borough where dead limbs and overhanging branches endangered the travelling public and private property. This project covered approximately seven and one-half miles of borough streets. Sponsors contributed \$113.75. Federal funds totalled \$3,368. Twelve men were employed on the project. Another project covered a storm sewer extension from the trunk line built under WPA and consisted of 290 feet of 18-inch reinforced concrete pipe on School street, which connected with 117 feet of 15-inch pipe on Lakeside avenue and provided for 75 feet of 12-inch pipe to take off the surface flow collected in catch basins on Lakeside avenue. The completed project provided proper drainage for Lakeside avenue, whereas, in the past, surface water has been uncared for. The pipe on School street was laid in a trench of unusual depth in order to meet with the trunk line built by the PWA.” (Oct. 31, 1936, p.1)

“Acceptance by the Aldermen, of the town-sponsored WPA Day Nursery at 62 Hill street was announced today by Edward S. Broderick, chairman of the projects committee. The nursery, which has been in trial operation for the past six weeks, was conceived for the working mothers of Morristown as a place where children will have supervised care while the mothers are employed. Under the direction of Mrs. Tracy Waldron, Supervisor, the nursery can accommodate 30 children from baby age to five. They are accepted for any period of time between 7:30 A.M. and 6 P.M....Careful medical supervision is given the children under the direction of Dr. John D. Terreri of 30 High street, who has donated his services to the project. Dr. Terreri examines the children when they are admitted and treats them for minor ailments. Also a trained nurse is maintained on the nursery staff, which numbers six women in addition to Mrs. Waldron....Discarded toys will be appreciated....Also children’s clothes are required to supplant the ordinary wardrobe of the youngsters. These will be reconditioned by a seamstress on the project....” (Oct. 31, 1936, p. 1 & 7)

The 1936 Presidential election was fast approaching. A large ad on October 31, 1936, p.5 made an appeal to **“Republicans – Deserted Democrats, Independents – and First Voters! HELP SAVE YOUR CONTRY and the INSTITUTIONS YOU LOVE by VOTING for LANDON and KNOX and the STRAIGHT REPUBLICAN TICKET.** Do not be deceived by temporary prosperity or misled by a relief job. After three years of colossal and wasteful extravagance, there are 5,300,000 people on relief as against 3,900,000 in 1933. There are 12,000,000 men and women out of a permanent job as compared to 10,000,000 in 1933. In the 3 years ended June 30, 1936, Government Expenditures under the Roosevelt Administration exceeded Government Income by **MORE THAN TWELVE BILLION DOLLARS.** Do you realize the raiders are actually spending \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) every hour of the day; every day of the week; every week of the year? Who pays for this orgy of waste and extravagance? YOU! How? Through **HIGHER TAXES—on everything—**on food, clothing shelter. No matter who you are, or what your income is, you pay more and more **NEW DEAL TAXES** every year. Even President Roosevelt admits that . . .”Consumers’ Taxes . . .fall much more heavily upon the poor man than upon the rich.” **YOU PAY THE BILL!!!! THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL CONTEST – It is a call to SAVE AMERICA....”**

“BOONTON – Cheering crowds lined the streets of Boonton here last night to witness a parade

of over 2,000 workers and friends sponsored by the Labor Non-Partisan League and Branch 13, American Federation of Hosiery Workers, for President Roosevelt in a dazzling array of torch-lights and novelties. It is estimated that nearly the same number if not more saw the parade. ...In the center several workers masqueraded in high hats and signs bearing the names of Hearst, Mellon, Du Pont and Morgan....another horse and buggy carried a worker who bore a striking resemblance to Alfred M. Landon. It had to do with horse and buggy days....” (Nov. 3, 1936, p.1)

from the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Nov. 3, 1936, p.4: “It’s an ironic note that the social security “payroll tax,” of which Republican campaigners and many manufacturers made such an important issue in the last days of the presidential battle, was the handiwork of Gerard Swope, chairman of the board of the huge General Electric Company. Principle of equal employer and employe contributions to the old age benefit system was chosen as the alternative to taking the money for a national old age pension system from the proceeds of income taxes. This section of the social security act was modeled after the General Electric pensions plan, partly because the only American precedent the innumerable advisers and experts called in by Roosevelt had to go on was the experience of certain big corporation pension funds and because Roosevelt took the advice of Swope and other conservatives rather than that of Progressive New Dealers who argued that old age pensions should be paid out of profits. That explains why insiders felt it was so incongruous when groups which had been howling so loudly about increased taxes began to attack violently—for political purposes—the system devised by one of their own wealthy industrialists to save them from a real drain on their own pocketbooks....The Republican “educational campaign” has now raised such a furore that an early drive for a “soak the rich” tax to pay old age pensions is inevitable.”

“One of the most unique and widespread sales promotions ever sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce—The Loyalty to Morristown Campaign—gets into full swing tomorrow with nearly 150 merchants participating. The theme of this drive is not one of bigger and better bargains, but rather of publicizing the sound economic advantages of trading in home town stores. It is estimated that at present at least \$3,000,000 is spent by Morristown residents for merchandise out of town every year. If the present campaign is successful in persuading consumers to spend even a small portion of this sum in Morristown instead of elsewhere each year the entire drive will have been justified, according to the secretary of the Chamber. It is also pointed out that if every family in Morristown spent \$1.00 more per week in the town the total would run close to \$250,000 for the year, which, if equally divided among local merchants, would mean \$600 more for each of them in that period. The cooperating merchants, beginning tomorrow and through Saturday, November 21, will give a coupon with every 50c worth of merchandise purchased. Each of these coupons represents a share in a beautiful new 1937 Dodge sedan and many other valuable merchandise prizes, all of which will be awarded at a great mass meeting at the close of the campaign....Besides these prizes which will be awarded to the consumer public, \$500 will be given at the close of the campaign to the underprivileged children of Morristown as a “Christmas stocking” which money will be administered and distributed by the churches of the community....” (Nov. 6, 1936, p.1)

“Applications for employees’ account numbers and for employers’ identification numbers under the Social Security Old Age Pension Act are in the hands of Postmaster Russell J. Noncarrow and will be distributed shortly. The Post Office Department is cooperating with the Social Security Board in the assignment of the numbers. Employees’ account numbers application forms will be delivered to all workers in Morristown through the post office and their employers by November 24 or shortly thereafter. These forms must be filled out and

returned to Noncarrow not later than December 5. Completed employees' forms may be returned to the postmaster in five ways: through employers, through labor organizations, through letter carriers, in person or by messenger, or in a sealed envelope addressed to the postmaster. The Social Security Board will inform employees of their assigned numbers before January 1, 1937, when the act becomes effective. Employers' identification numbers applications forms will be delivered to Morristown employers on November 16 or shortly thereafter, and must be returned to the postmaster here by November 21....As soon as every employee and employer has a number, the Post Office Department will have completed its task and all pension correspondence thereafter will be directly between the board and employers and employees...." (Nov. 6, 1936, p.1)

"Paterson, N. J. – Amir Hossan, forty-seven year old Arabian born dye worker, has paid in full what he regards a debt to the city's emergency relief department. Hossan, during a period of unemployment, received checks totaling \$29.10 from James O'Gorman, overseer of the poor. He took the money under protest. Last month when he obtained employment he turned over \$10 from his first pay check to O'Gorman with the promise that he would pay the remainder as soon as possible. Later Hossan cleared up the balance of \$19.10." (Nov. 6, 1936, p.11)

"...Town Clerk Nelson S. Butera, reporting on relief, said there was a big drop in the number of cases and a substantial increase in the amount of private employment. During the month there were 29 new cases representing 126 persons taken on, 53 cases representing 202 persons dismissed and two cases representing seven persons rejected. The total active cases as of November were 77 representing 336 persons as against 132 cases of 539 people on October 1. There had been 20 placed on WPA jobs and 14 in private employment while CCC camps, old age and permanent relief had taken care of some. The total cost was \$2,676.63, a drop of \$513.17 from September. Clothing made in the clothing project had been distributed and Mr. Butera had on hand a display of some of this clothing, other articles to be distributed and the samples of food given out for the Board to inspect. This inspection will be open for the public today...." (Nov. 7, 1936, p.1)

"Artists who have left here with the closing down of the National Park Museum Laboratory [sic] at Lafayette Hall leave behind them a wealth of display material for the Washington Museum, now under construction. Chief among their creations for the town are two large dioramas, tri-dimensional miniatures of General Washington's welcome to Lafayette at the Ford Mansion, and of the mutiny of the Pennsylvania line at Glen Alpine along the Bernardsville road. Numerous other illustrations were made for permanent display in that room in the museum which will recall the most colorful days in the life of Washington. The laboratory here...has been removed and re-set up at Washington, D. C., with the dwindling of PWA funds for the artists' project. Presence of the museum laboratory here was apparently the stimulant necessary for the founding of the Morristown Art Association, now about to stage its second annual show. When the government designated Morristown for its laboratory project, artists of first repute on the seaboard and in the nation began to move here...." (Nov. 7, 1936, p.1)

"TRENTON, (AP) – State officials and legislators wondered today when to consider 1937 relief financing and unemployment insurance legislation—in a special session or at the regular session in January—but no one knew the answer. It seemed probable, however, that relief, a controversial issue for many years, might go over until the 1937 session when the Democratic-controlled Assembly would be forced to share responsibility for enactment of a program. In view of the fact that the State Financial Assistance Commission has spent only \$1,000,000 of its \$7,500,000 fund—any balance of which remains December 31 will be distributed to

municipalities as an “extra dividend”—it seemed likely relief may be available at least for a time in January....The State Social Security Commission, which voted two weeks ago to scrap its original State unemployment insurance bill, will meet next week...to discuss a new one. The new bill, it was decided after a public hearing recently, would eliminate the private insurance carriers suggested by the original measure and would omit the life insurance features. The federal insurance program goes into effect January 1, and if the State enacts a program of its own before that time, it will be reimbursed for 90 per cent of the one per cent payroll levy. If the State does not have its own program, the entire State contribution would go into the federal fund....” (Nov. 7, 1936, p.1)

from the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Nov. 9, 1936, p.4: “Class warfare became more accentuated in the 1936 campaign than in any election year since the time of Andrew Jackson. Although the issues at stake were merely what would be considered mildly progressive measures in other nations, they were sufficient to create a lineup wherein the great majority of those in the higher income groups supported Landon and the great majority of those in lower income groups—except in conservative rural areas—supported Roosevelt....Mixed with the proper amount of stupidity, it might eventually lead to the clash between Fascism and Communism which most Americans dread....”

“Two WPA projects in Morris County temporarily closed down because funds have run out will be reapplied for and continued shortly, according to District Director Francis Moroney. He announced the fingerprinting work at the Court House is nearing completion, but said the writers’ project is to continue. Moroney explained the appropriations for the old county road returns and the Pequannock tax map projects have been exhausted. He said the jobs would be resumed as soon as a new grant for another period of work is obtained. Eight persons are to lose employment with the closing of the fingerprinting office....” (Nov. 11, 1936, p. 7)

“NETCONG – Local teachers will have to continue with the 15 percent paycuts that have been in effect since 1932, the Board of Education decided at its meeting last night. The teachers had made a request that part of the paycut be eliminated several months ago. After discussing the situation at length, the Board decided that in view of the decrease in receipts of funds from the state it was impossible to make the change. The local amount of anticipated revenues from the state had been put at \$6,400 and the District Clerk, J. S. Young told the Board he estimated that only about half this amount would be received. To make a change on January 1 and cut off 5 percent of the funds, it would take \$800 to pay the teachers from then to the end of the school year and there were no funds available....” (Nov. 13, 1936, p.1)

“MADISON – Four WPA projects costing a total of \$4,000, of which the board will pay \$528.79, were approved by the Madison Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting.... Two of the projects are for the building of sidewalks in the rear of the school. One of these will run from Brittin street to the parking area, and the other from the janitor’s cottage to Highland avenue. A third project is for the building of a roadway from Britain [sic] street to a parking area. The fourth is for the completion of the installation of toilets in the high school garage, which is used as a comfort station for tennis players during the summer. At the present time WPA workers are working on the \$25,000 plan to renovate the high school athletic field and the \$6,000 tennis courts have been completed....” (Nov. 12, 1936, p.1)

“The Board of Freeholders is particularly interested in the reason for the discontinuance of the WPA fingerprinting project. District Supervisor Francis J. Maroney [sic] of the WPA indicated the other day that several projects were being discontinued temporarily because

of lack of funds....This does not hold true of the fingerprint project if the figures given the Freeholders at their semi-monthly meeting yesterday are anywhere near correct. These figures showed \$2,611.38 already spent and a balance of \$6,937.62....The job ...is being stopped in the middle of taking prints at Dover and other schools had been lined up in the program for coming months. When it became known, the day before election, that this project was to be at least partially closed down, Moroney issued a general denial that the fingerprinting or any other WPA project was to be closed at any time in the near future....The Board was in receipt of a communication from eight employees of the project, asking that its influence be lent to have the work continue....Accompanying it were letters from J. Edgar Hoover, praising the project and the good results obtained in Morris County....Freeholder Calvin Lawrence commented on the way the project was stopped midway in the work after the Freeholders had gone along and sponsored it in good faith and said they should know the reason....At Shongum a job had been started and now lay dead although there was \$3,456 remaining in the fund....It was pointed out that the Freeholders had handicapped the County in giving space to these various federal projects, including a whole floor of the old Sheriff's house for an employment bureau, two rooms in the Hall of Records for other jobs and three rooms in the main building for the fingerprinting and old maps projects." (Nov. 13, 1936, p.1)

"That the attendance at the Neighborhood House and variety of work done during the past year was the largest in its history....Attendances totalled 46,016....The grand total was an increase over the preceding year of 6,000. This was made possible by the workers available. Regular staff, W.P.A. recreation workers, Junior League and general volunteers numbered 73 personsActivities included the baby conference, nursery school, classes in English, arithmetic, dramatics, dressmaking under the adult education program: instruction in hooked rug making, chair caning, chair rushing, knitting wood carving, public speaking, singing under the W.P.A. program, arts and crafts other than those named, piano lessons, dramatics for girls, sewing. Two troops of Girl Scouts were maintained. Basket ball and other gymnasium activities were as popular as usual...." (Nov. 13, 1936, p.6)

"**NEWARK**, (AP) – Mail carriers started today the task of delivering to every employer in New Jersey blanks which they must fill out, listing their personnel, under the old age benefit division of the Federal Social Security Act. It is the first application in New Jersey of the payroll levy under the federal act. No action is being taken at this time on the unemployment insurance aspect of the act, because New Jersey has not yet enacted enabling legislation. Employers who must enroll include any individual, firm, trust or estate employing one or more persons less than 65 years of age today. The forms must be returned to the local postmaster not later than Saturday. Employees' blanks and informal circulars will be distributed the following Tuesday, with December 5 the last day for their return. William L. Dill of Paterson, regional director of the Federal Social Security program for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, pointed out that the payroll tax under the unemployment insurance program must be paid in New Jersey even if the state does not enact legislation so the workers can get benefits under it. The deadline for passage of such legislation, he said, is December 31. Dill estimated that New Jersey would lose between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000 a year if the legislature does not enact legislation going along with the federal plan. This amount would represent the 90 percent that would be returned by the federal government if the legislation were passed....The State Social Security Commission has assailed the federal unemployment insurance and old age pension programs as illegal invasions of state rights and has recommended that the legislature appropriate \$25,000 to sue in the U.S. Supreme Court for an order restraining the government from collecting the payroll levy in New Jersey....Dill predicted 900,000 New Jersey workers would come under the old age benefit program....he could not estimate how many employers would be affected, but declared

“millions of blanks” had been printed for their replies to guard against a shortage.” (Nov. 16, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON** – A meeting of more than 100 of the men most appreciative of WPA, PWA and direct federal relief was held today in Washington. These visitors are city managers and mayors of 110 American municipalities, who indorsed WPA and PWA extensions....The conference, led by New York’s Mayor, Fiorello La Guardia, will ask that the PWA revolving fund be indefinitely continued, perhaps institutionalized, freeing the cities from a competitive bond market and lower the interest rates demanded by private lenders. A problem of great interest to the mayors, investors, brokers, and taxpayers alike is the interest rates they charge, and this meeting will decide what is to be done about it....The closing meeting on Wednesday will find Mayor Ellenstein of Newark speaking on “Cities and Industrial Promotion”.... “ (Nov. 16, 1936, p.1)

“Officials of the Commerce Department are said to be drafting plans for a complete unemployment census of the United States. Congress... will be asked to vote from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for the job. The work as outlined would take four months or more—but when it was finished we would know exactly how many men were out of work, what their former occupations were, what industries were over-supplied with workers, and what ones were not. One hardly needs to say that this is an excellent plan; one can only wonder that it was not undertaken long ago. For some six years now, unemployment has been our greatest problem; yet in all that time we have not made one move toward finding out what its exact extent may be” (editorial, Nov. 16, 1936)

“The feasibility of forming a Morris County farmers’ co-operative will be discussed at a mass meeting sponsored by the Morris Grange at its hall in Parsippany....All farmers are invited. Introduction of the general co-operative idea in Morris County was effeced [sic] by the New Jersey Consumers’ Co-operative, operating from its retail outlet at 17 North Passaic avenue, Chatham. It deals principally in groceries and gas and oil. If organized, the farmers’ group would probably sell all commodities used in agricultural production. It would be set up on a non-profit basis and if designed after other co-operatives would allow but one vote to each stockholder regardless of the number of shares he holds....” (Nov. 17, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, (AP)** – President Roosevelt today urged industry to employ greater numbers of older workers and of unskilled workers. He said Congress would be asked for another appropriation to carry relief through next June. His statement...follows: “Re-employment has been increasing rapidly during the last year....From the peak of 5,316,000 unemployed families and single persons in January, 1935, the number declined 28 percent to August, 1936. Despite this decline a large number of unemployed remain on the WPA and other governmental agencies. These workers are to a large extent unskilled and a disproportionately large number are older workers—40 years and over....It is widely known that many of the largest industries will not hire workers over 40 years of age. To a large extent this policy is responsible for the relatively large number of older workers on relief. Leaders of business must recognize the consequences of this hiring age policy—it condemns many in this group of workers to permanent unemployment....Long continued unemployment for the older workers results sooner or later in unemployability. The non-employment of unskilled workers likewise leads eventually to unemployability—and this means a permanent problem of support. And the burden of support is carried ultimately in large measure by industry itself.” (Nov. 18, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – A number of Morristown typists will get temporary jobs at a “typing

center” to be set up in that city within the next few weeks, it was learned today. The typing center will be under the supervision of the postoffice department in connection with inauguration of the federal social security program. Employees at the center will have the job of making out the initial Social Security Board office record for each of the workers in the immediate area who are assigned account numbers by the postoffice department. From the Morristown typing center the original of the employee’s identification card will be returned to the local postoffice for distribution. The initial office record from which the employee’s ledger account is to be set up will be forwarded to a special tabulation office of the Social Security Board located in Baltimore, Md. All of the jobs in the center will be under civil service regulations, and are expected to last about six months....” (Nov. 18, 1936, p.9)

“**MOUNTAIN LAKES** – Andrew Babyak, 58-year-old Morristown paralytic, who was the victim of New Jersey’s relief red tape last Summer and whose case received wide newspaper prominence when it was learned that he was unable to collect a single cent from three relief dispensing-bodies, cannot hope to receive any financial help from this borough, where he formerly lived. The Borough Council at its meeting last night refused to authorize the payment of two bills amounting to \$91.17 submitted by the Morris County Welfare Board which body has been taking care of the invalid pending a court decision as to which of the three bodies—Milltown Borough in Middlesex County, Mountain Lakes or the Morris Welfare Board—should support him. The case, originally scheduled to have been heard before Judge Albert Holland on July 31, has been postponed three times....” (Nov. 19, 1936, p.8)

“Freeholder A. S. Kirkpatrick is a Republican who assimilated from the recent presidential campaign possibly the most important charge the G.O.P levelled at the New Deal....When this week his turn came to vote on the armory for Morristown, he cast a stubborn nay, not on the ground that he disfavors armories, but rather because he sees in the armory the need for another large government appropriation. The Republican party needs more stubbornness of this type.... Kirkpatrick has entered that small Republican hall of fame for which a G.O.P. supporter may qualify by consistently attacking large spending and then voting himself against a new appropriation.” (editorial, Nov. 21, 1936)

“During the month of October 64 men and two women secured positions in Morris County. Of this figure 55 were placed in public employment and 11 in private employment. The men and women placed in private employment filled the following positions: 1 dairy hand, 1 laborer, 2 dishwashers, 1 chef, 2 domestic, 1 truck driver, 1 oil burner installer, 1 general office clerk, 1 handyman. The Morristown office of the N. J. State Employment Service is located in the Court House. Its emergency responsibility of placing relief recipients in public employment is secondary in importance to securing jobs with private employers for all applicants, whether self-sustaining or not. As a free public employment office, the Morristown office of the New Jersey State Employment Service should be regarded and used by all Morris county people in the same way as they make use of other permanent public services such as the public schools and free libraries. Any person seeking work, whether on relief or not, can and should register at this office any morning, except Saturdays and Sundays....In filling orders from private employers, unless such employers specifically state they desire certain types, the only test the State Employment Service imposes is to send the best qualified applicant available, regardless of race, religion, relief status or political affiliations.” (Nov. 23, 1936, p.1)

from the **Daily Washington Letter**, by Rodney Dutcher, Nov. 23, 1936, p.4: “...Convinced that the unemployment and relief problems are constant, ... high New Dealers are...concerned with formulating an integrated program which will eliminate as much unemployment in as many

ways as possible and at the same time get federal relief activity on a permanent, co-ordinated, and efficient basis. The present Social Security Act, subject to certain changes, is considered a cornerstone. If Roosevelt accepts recommendations of WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins, he will push for legislation to shorten working hours in industry, for an unemployment census, for rigid child labor laws, for minimum wages, for a lower minimum age limit on old age pensions and insurance, and for a permanent WPA to tide over workers who can't find jobs at periods when they're not covered by unemployment insurance. Hopkins is understood to believe that boys and girls should be kept in school until they are 18 years old....An 18-year-old law would take somewhere between two and three millions out of industry....Half the unemployed have never received aid. It is from that half that the increased ranks of labor in industry, the WPA, and the local relief rolls receive most of their recruits, which is one reason why business and employment can pick up without corresponding decreases on relief and works rolls.”

“MT. FREEDOM – A “blowout” was given to the WPA workers Saturday afternoon for the splendid job they did in constructing the road between Hirshhorns bungalows and Golden corner. The affair was sponsored by the road committee of Morris County, the Randolph Township committee, Isadore Rosenfarb and George Clark. Rosenfarb and Clark contributed because the road that was constructed passed their place. The gathering was held at Rosenfarb’s farm....” (Nov. 23, 1936, p. 13)

“...The usual Thanksgiving dinner—turkey with all the fixin’s—will be served in the hospitals and public institutions of Morris County tomorrow. At Shonghum Sanitorium, the patients will enjoy a turkey dinner with mince and pumpkin pies for dessert. The four World War veterans at the hospital have been remembered with Thanksgiving baskets by the American Legion. The residents at the Welfare House will be served with a chicken dinner, the chickens having been raised on the farm. There will be the usual vegetables and extras with pumpkin pie for dessert. As a special treat there will be a Thanksgiving supper in the evening with ice cream, donated by Mrs. A. Heyward McAlpin. Through the courtesy of the board of managers, those living at the Old Ladies Home will have their usual Turkey dinner with all the extras and pumpkin pie for dessert. This year because the cost of turkeys is lower than usual, the prisoners at the Morris County Jail will also have a turkey dinner, instead of chicken served for the past few years. Their dinner will also include mashed potatoes, turnips, celery, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and coffee....At the State Hospital at Greystone Park there are on the records patients aggregating 5,748 of whom 631 are on parole, leaving a resident patient population of 5,117, and for whom a Thanksgiving dinner of correspondingly large proportions will be prepared and served....This is a sizeable task when quantities are realized: 325 gallons of celery soup with 125 lbs. croutons; 5,500 lbs. chicken, with 600 lbs. dressing and 135 gallons of gravy; 500 lbs. apples made into sauce; 20 barrels sweet potatoes; 2,500 lbs. red cabbage; 3,000 stalks celery; 750 loaves bread; 200 lbs. butter, 2,000 lbs. pumpkin made into 300 8-lb. pies; 400 gallons coffee and 500 pts. milk. During mealtime Superintendent Curry and the members of his medical staff will visit the dining rooms to greet the patients and to see that none is overlooked....” (Nov. 25, 1936, p.7)

“The 1936 collection of county taxes is far ahead of other years, Treasurer Fletcher Fritts told the Board of Freeholders Wednesday afternoon. The 1936 county levy was \$1,009,909.24 and \$926,666.75 has been collected, leaving \$83,242.49 out. This is about 92 percent collected and it is felt that at least \$45,000 more will be collected by the end of the year. Library and District Court taxes are almost 100 percent collected while many have paid state school and bonus taxes although these are not due until December 15. Mr. Fritts said that 27 municipalities have paid their 1936 county tax in full, ten have paid on account and one, Netcong, has not paid any of its 1936 tax....” (Nov. 27, 1936, p.1)

“The Social Security Act got a lot of discussion when Congress passed it. It got a lot more during the presidential campaign. But it is only now, when it is actually about to go into operation, that the ordinary citizen realizes what is taking place. What is happening, clearly, is something very like a revolution in our traditional attitude toward old age. For the first time, we are preparing to look ahead to old age with pleasant anticipation rather than with dread. The statistics about the number of people who can provide financial security for their final years are more or less familiar. Of any representative group of wage earners, a small number at the top will be able to retire on their savings. Another small group, at the bottom, ultimately will “go on the county.” The rest finally will be supported by their relatives; and, however strong the ties of love may be, they will know that they are a burden. That is the way it has worked out from the beginning of civilization. And now, under the Social Security Law, we are heading in a different direction. We can admit that the act is sadly imperfect in many ways. Probably it will be several years before Congress gets all the kinks ironed out of it. The big thing is the fact that a start—and a good healthy start, too—has at last been made. Take one ordinary, average, individual wage earner and think of the change this act will make in his life. He can look ahead, let us say, to a lifetime retirement pay of \$50 a month. To that extent, his retirement is taken care of and his old age is secure. No longer does he need to count the years as they slip away, denying himself little luxuries and even necessities to provide for the day when he is cut off the payroll. Instead, he can be confident. If he can save enough as he goes along to buy that “little place in the country,” where he can live rent-free and grow a few vegetables for himself, he can look ahead to absolute independence. If he can’t, he can at least know that, when retirement comes and he moves in with son and daughter, he can pay his own way and be obligated to no one. Retirement can look like a release, not a tragedy. Old age will not be a scrapheap, but a time for the leisurely savoring of some of those pleasures which get crowded out in the rush of ordinary activity....Measured in terms of human happiness, the Social Security Act is one of the most important laws ever passed by Congress.” (editorial, Nov. 27, 1936)

“The WPA Morris County Planning and Base Map Project shows continued progress according to the ninth monthly report just released. Additional artistic and practical charts have been completed recently dealing with population comparisons, use and value of land, nativity and family statistics, tax rate comparison by type of municipality and a study of rural lands....The office of this project is found in the Morris County Court House in Morristown and the public is welcome to inspect the work being done by the staff employed by the Works Progress Administration under the supervision of Andrew J. Proskie.” (Nov. 28, 1936, p.1)

“**CHATHAM** – The construction upturn witnessed here during the first nine months of 1936 continued at its boom-time pace during October with building permits soaring up three times their volume for the correspondence month of 1935. As in past months, the feature of the October building spurt was the predominant part played in its [sic] by the Federal Housing Administration. Figures compiled by the Chatham Better Housing Committee reveal that nine-tenths of the construction work begun during that month are being financed through the FHA Single Mortgage System. The dollar volume of building permits for October was \$47,540.00 or 334% over the total for the same month last year. Permits for alterations, with a dollar value of \$5,040, jumped to 288% of their total for October 1935. The persistence with which heavy building continues even at this late season of the year is shown by the fact that seven new homes were begun during the past month, as compared to two during the same period last year.....” (Nov. 28, 1936, p.5)

“**TRENTON**, (AP) – Governor Hoffman today called a special session of the Legislature for

Monday, December 21, to consider a state unemployment insurance. Four plans for putting New Jersey under the federal job insurance plan have been proposed....One plan proposed is similar to the New York State law, recently upheld by the United States Supreme Court. Another would provide an individual reserve; a third would provide a combination employers' reserve-state pool, the fourth would set up a state-federal pool. The Governor made clear he was not committed to any of the four plans...." (Nov. 30, 1936, p.1)

"J. Francis Moroney, WPA district director, told the Daily Record this morning he could not predict the exact effect in Morris County of a disclosure that several thousand Jersey WPA workers will be dropped before Christmas. The district director asserted he could make no statement on the order from Washington that a nation-wide decimation of WPA activity be effected before the holidays. Moroney's failure to comment on the situation aligns with the virtual dictatorship attitude the WPA took towards news releases about a year ago. District directors are apparently ordered by State Headquarters at Newark to maintain complete silence on matters of policy....However, the district director has been co-operative as far as discussion of facts is concerned. He said today that the WPA employs in Morris County 2,849 persons.... The order for personnel cuts was made known last night by William H. J. Ely, state WPA director. He intimated discharge of laborers and white collar workers is imminent unless new appropriations are received to keep 78,000 state residents on the projects...." (Nov. 30, 1936, p.6)

"**MADISON** – A county-wide senior basketball league embracing teams from six municipalities is being organized by the WPA recreational leaders this week....Beside Madison, the members will be Dover, Wharton, Whippany, Roxbury and Chatham....Attempts to organize a county WPA league met with considerable success last season, and the season ended with a county tournament with 14 teams playing at the Settlement House in Madison. Roxbury lost to Madison in the final round by one point to bring the season to a brilliant close. With an earlier start this campaign, the six member clubs expect an unusually successful season. They plan to complete their season early in February, leaving each team free to play in any type of invitation tournament it desires....The WPA heads forbid charging admission to any activity held under its sponsorship. This means that the league will have to operate without the benefit of gate receipts if it uses the WPA name." (Nov. 30, 1936, p.10)

"**BUTLER** – Work is expected to start soon on the erecting of a dam for the proposed Kikeout reservoir. Engineering details have been completed under the direction of Cornelius C. Vermeule, engineer of the Butler Borough Water works. Three hundred and fifty men will be employed for about six months, when the building starts, and will be done under a WPA project. Clearing and grading of the site in addition to constructing the dam will also be done. The cost to this borough will be about \$35,000. The total estimated cost is \$245,484....The water from the proposed reservoir would be of higher quality than that of the present Apshawa basin. The elevation of the mountain is 650 feet. The reservoir is figured to be capable of storing 600,000,000 gallons of water and supplying 4,500,000 gallons daily." (Nov. 30, 1936, p.13)

"**TRENTON**, (AP) – An unemployment compensation plan under which all contributions would be made by employers was pressed by the New Jersey Press Association before the Social Security Commission today as hearings were opened on proposals for state compliance with the Federal Social Security Act. The Press group put forward the plan patterned after the Wisconsin law against the four proposals under consideration by the Security Commission....James Kerney, Jr., Trenton editor and president of the press association....said the employer reserve system

“would serve the best interests of employment stabilization for the State of New Jersey as a whole. It is our feeling that this stabilization of employment must be the prime purpose of any unemployment compensation legislation. Of secondary importance, in our opinion, is the cash return to the employee, which will serve as a cushion in case of another period of wide unemployment.” ” (Dec. 2, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON**, (AP) – Sharply divided views on a state system of unemployment insurance was presented to the Social Security Commission at a public hearing today in the Assembly Chamber. The commission...heard an employers’ reserve system endorsed by some groups, and general pooling approved by others....One of the four commission proposals—plan B—provides for a combination employers reserve-state pool with the employer putting five-sixths of his contributions in a reserve fund and one fifth in a state pool with the employees contribution. Plan B, together with an employer-reserve system, was criticized by A. J. Cozzolino, consultant to the state federation of labor, who said administration would be expensive. He added that while Plan B is patterned after the Indiana program, it would not be suited to New Jersey because this state is more compact and every section would feel the effects of unemployment. Cozzolino also said he was “concerned” about the taxation possibility of Plan B which, he said, might go as high as 8 ½ per cent. Favoring general pooling, as in Plan C—the model federal act—Cozzolino said the recent election also indicated its endorsement by the voters. He referred to the United States Supreme Court validation of the New York law and said that indicated “members of the judiciary are influenced by economic and social conditions.”....” (Dec. 2, 1936, p.1)

“**CHATHAM** – The first of the Morris County WPA recreational units to fold up collapsed with a bang here this week with the abolition of the recreational program and the termination of the activities under Director James Callahan. The excuse for the ending of the WPA program in this section of the county was given in two succinct [sic] words—“Personnel reduction.” Why Chatham, in particular, should have its recreational program discontinued suddenly was not revealed. Whether this is the forerunner of wholesale reductions in the WPA recreational staff is not known here....Callahan said that he was given a brief written notice that he was to end his work because the recreation commission has decided to cut down its salary list....The WPA program in Chatham functioned for three years under Callahan’s direction. During that time community basketball and baseball leagues for men and boys were run, and last Summer a soft ball league was organized to give more than 100 players recreation in the evening. In addition to the purely athletic program, Callahan conducted classes in leathercraft and handicraft, numerous play day programs, and had charge of the playground during the school vacation months....the plans to reorganize the Chatham Community Basketball League will be dropped, the Tuesday evening gym classes will be discontinued, and the various classes will be brought to a complete close.” (Dec. 2, 1936, p.2)

“**LINCOLN PARK** – The winter adult educational and recreational classes will be held in the Lincoln Park school, under a WPA project, beginning Thursday evening. The courses offered for the opening period include [sic] low cost menus, mixed chorus work, public speaking, dramatics, and gym classes for men and women. Teachers may be procured for art, painting and dancing if the interest warrants. A sewing class under the direction of the home economics department of the Home and School association will be held Friday at the home of Mrs. Munson Zelif of Boonton turnpike. Miss Mary Bartley, county demonstrator will have on hand the Christmas box for display and give instructions in making the many useful gifts, including luncheon and bridge sets, cuddly dolls and calico animals....” (Dec. 2, 1936, p.13)

“**STIRLING** – At a meeting of the Passaic Township Board of Education...last night...it was

voted to return 5% pay cuts to teachers to take effect January 1....In recommending the abolition of pay cuts the teacher's committee pointed out that all of the 1935-36 budget had been paid and that tax collections are much better this year. The school nurse gave a report on a survey of children in the township who had been vaccinated and those immunized against diphtheria. Percentages showed the township poorly protected both in children of school age and pre-school age....Dr. Hallock offered his services for two days in January at which time the Nurses Association will give assistance and the local Board of Health will provide necessary instruments to vaccinate and immunize children of parents who can not afford to pay for the service. At the same time all parents will be urged to send children to the family doctor for such treatment.... The Board authorized the expenditure of \$100 set up in the budget to provide a dental clinic. Last year the sum provided 60 extractions and 40 fillings to pupils needing care but lacking funds...." (Dec. 3, 1936, p. 1 & 9)

“TRENTON, (AP) – Fate of New Jersey's unemployment compensation program today was squarely in the hands of the 1936 Legislature, called into special session December 21 to provide state compliance with the federal social security act. Two widely variant approaches to the same goal--enactment of an insurance program before the December 31 deadline—were to be recommended in majority and minority report [sic] of the state's social security commission. They were: approval of a state pool for employer-employee contributions to be administered by a seven-man non-salaried commission. This was known as plan “D”, one of the four considered at yesterday's public hearing, and carried the support of the majority. Or, approval of plan “A” an individual reserve pool operated by the state and regarded as virtually certain of disapproval by federal authorities. The group supporting this stand suggested it become effective only in the event the federal act were declared unconstitutional....The majority and minority reports will be given to Governor Hoffman sometime next week for submission to the legislators, many of whom were present yesterday ostensibly to sound out public opinion....Labor spokesmen at the hearing supported employee contribution to any plan that might be voted as “a compromise to get social security started.” Support for complete state control of compensation and at the same time a test of the federal act's legal soundness came from the Manufacturers Association of New Jersey.” (Dec. 3, 1936, p.2)

“WASHINGTON, D.C. – Bonds of the Borough of Rockaway which had been turned over to PWA as security for a loan, were sold at public sale by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation at a profit of \$2,466, it was learned today. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation acquired the bonds, which were four per cent sewer assessment bonds of 1934, from the PWA for public sale. The proceeds will go into the PWA revolving funds. Five bids were submitted for the Rockaway bonds and B. J. Van Ingen and Company, Inc., of New York City, were the highest bidder. This company offered \$1,018.09 per thousand dollars for \$137,000 worth of the bonds.” (Dec. 3, 1936, p.2)

“MADISON – Madison borough's official recreational activities will not be affected by any changes the WPA might make here during its current campaign to drop 8,000 workers from the payrolls in New Jersey. The borough's recreational activities are directed by the Recreation Commission which operates without any support or any interference from the WPA or any other outside organization. It continued to support its own activities at the playgrounds even when it could have obtained WPA workers at lowered cost. Outside the Recreation Commission's scope, however, are several workers who are engaged in recreational work in connection with the WPA. In neighboring Chatham the entire recreational program was wiped out when the WPA dropped its Recreational Leader, leaving the movement without direction.” (Dec. 3, 1936, p.10)

“The garden variety of telephone books being painfully devoid of anything exciting, it seems hardly worthwhile to rummage among Morristown Fours and Madison Sixes to seek out new trends in the life of the people. Nevertheless, those pages of the county phone book devoted to Morristown Fours have an important story to tell. On page one hundred and twenty four, the black face heading “U. S. Government” leads off an imposing array of ten telephone numbers. Only Morris County, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township exceed the Federal government in quantity of telephone listings. Phone numbers now under the government are for the C. C. C. camp, the Department of Agriculture, the Dutch Elm laboratory, the National Park, the National Park Museum Laboratory, National Re-employment Service, the Resettlement Administration, Washington’s Headquarters, the WPA, and the WPA recreation division. Five years ago, only one of these points, Washington’s Headquarters, was listed under Morristown—and that was not under the Federal government at the time, but rather under the Washington Association. If the phone book has few other tales to tell, at least it traces shamelessly the growth of Federal bureaucracy.” (editorial, Dec. 3, 1936)

“**Washington, D. C.** – Deposits in four Morristown banks amounting to \$14,389,000 have been insured by the Federal Deposit Corporation, the first complete compilation of FDIC figures revealed today. The \$14,000,000 figures represents, according to the Federal insurance agency, 62 per cent of the four banks’ total deposits, which aggregate \$22,981,000. Altogether, the four Morristown institutions operating under the Government’s insured deposit system, have a total of 33,285 accounts of which 32,452 represents deposits of \$5,000 or less. In the latter figure, wherever an individual depositor maintains a single account, that depositor has complete insurance protection covering his entire deposit. The FDIC pointed out, however, that in cases where a depositor has more than one account, he is protected on the total sum with which he has intrusted the bank only up to \$5,000. Of the total number of accounts maintained in the four Morristown banks, the FDIC report shows 633 are in excess of \$5,000 maximum insurance scale. These accounts are fully insured up to \$5,000, however. The four banks covered by Government insurance in Morristown are The American Trust Company, the First National Bank of Morristown, the Morristown Trust Company, and the National Iron Bank of Morristown. FDIC further explained that figures given in the report cover all branch banks, although the name of the main institution only is given....Results of the new report...show that the nation wide percentage of insured deposits to total deposits is 98 ½ per cent in banks covered by Government insurance. This means, the FDIC asserts, that only 1 ½ per cent of all the money deposited in Government supervised banks is represented in accounts totaling more than \$5,000.” (Dec. 4, 1936, p.3)

“**LINCOLN PARK** – Emergency Relief Director John Huntley reported to the Borough Council on Thursday night that five cases had received temporary relief during November at a cost of \$57.55 with one case still on the relief roles. He reported that 257 garments have been made by the WPA sewing project which is quartered in a class room in the school. Five women are employed. A request for \$50 to purchase woolen materials to be made up into garments for the local needy by the group was approved....” (Dec. 5, 1936, p.8)

from the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Dec. 7, 1936, p.4: “Assurances from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups that industry can be depended upon to absorb the unemployed are a great comfort to those in the administration who believe they can depend on such assurances. There would be more believers if it were not for the fact that the unemployment problem had been a big one ever since 1929 and that industrial policy meanwhile has been such as to discourage re-employment in proportion to the increase in industrial production. New evidence as to the effect of growth and improvement of machines

on employment is contained in a confidential report, covering a survey of technological unemployment developments....The Bureau of Labor Statistics and WPA co-operated in the survey. Thanks to greater efficiency through machines and higher standards imposed by industry, the American factory worker can now produce 39 per cent more than in 1920 and 10 per cent more than in 1929. The figure covering the post-1929 period is new and shows that the relentless process of displacing workers by machines continued right on through the depression. Restoration of employment to the 1929 level would require production of 10 per cent more goods than were produced in that year, whereas industrial production is now about 10 per cent below 1929....But technological unemployment is only one of the explanations why there are still between 8,000,000 and 11,000,000 unemployed....a very large factor is the birth rate....It is stated authoritatively that since 1929 about half a million more young people have entered the labor market each year than have been retired by old age or death. Young, eager, and often willing to work for low wages, these new workers have been displacing older men and women. So you find Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins complaining that many corporations are placing the top hiring ages of 40 and 45 years while an increasingly large proportion of persons between 45 and 65 is found on the relief rolls. This factor—more than 3,000,000 new workers in seven years—means that production would have to be increased 20 per cent above 1929, or nearly 35 per cent over the present figure, to reduce unemployment to 1929 proportions....On top of that....The A. F. of L. says the average work week increased from 38 hours in 1935 to 40 hours in 1936. Numerous business experts believe the national average working week is 44 hours or more, when all unorganized industries are included.”

“**DENVILLE** – The Woman’s Club annual Christmas party for under-privileged children will be at Wayside Inn the afternoon of December 18. Miss Edith Emmett’s Dancing School will perform and Santa Claus is to appear at the Christmas tree with a toy for each child. Miss Blanche Baldwin heads a large committee. The club will hold its own Christmas celebration at the Lysaght Building December 21. Each member will bring an article of food for dinner baskets to be given to the unemployed....” (Dec. 8, 1936, p.2)

“....Shortly WPA writers at the Court House here will release the first complete and possibly the only authoritative history of Morris County. For many months they have combed sometimes dull, sometimes exciting old records in the attempt to piece the chronology of the county into a correlated story....” (editorial, Dec. 8, 1936)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – A bi-partisan conference with the Democrats to consider an unemployment insurance program for the special legislative session...December 21 was planned today by the Republican senators. The special session will have ten Republicans and eight Democrats in the Senate...and the attorney general’s office has said it will still take eleven votes to pass a bill....The commission has decided to recommend a plan calling for a state reserves pool with employer and employe contributions, administered by a non-partisan board. In addition to unemployment insurance, Republicans were expected to support the transfer of the \$1,500,000 left over of the emergency relief administration to the state financial assistance commission. Some senators said the money would act as a “cushion” for early 1937 relief. Samuel S. Kenworthy...said he believed the commission should revise its estimates of relief costs for the last ballot 1936. “I am more than ever convinced that my estimate of \$7,730,000, as presented to your body on November 12, will more than cover relief costs from July 1 to December 31,” Kenworthy said. “At the present time you are disbursing your funds on the assumption that costs for six months will amount to \$9,750,000 and that you have \$7,500,000 available for this purpose. We, of course, understand that you actually have only the six million dollars made available from the Dorrance tax. I am convinced that you can reduce your estimate at this

time to at least \$7,500,000. If this is done and the legislature or the Governor makes available \$1,500,000 from the balance remaining in the former emergency relief administration funds, the state would be in a position to pay the entire costs of municipal relief for the last half of this year with the exception of administration expenditures....” (Dec. 9, 1936, p. 1)

“MORRIS PLAINS – The question of relief was the main topic under discussion at the meeting of the Borough Council last evening. The Council has been advised by the Welfare Board to include \$1500 in the 1937 budget for relief, stating that \$22,286.70 will be the probably sum spent during 1936....The advisability of issuing an emergency note of \$1400 for emergency relief was discussed at a closed meeting of the council after the regular meeting. Councilman G. Raymond Mills reported a cost of \$341, for relief during November and to date, and suggested that more than \$1500 would be needed for 1937 as the Borough has not been re-embursed [sic] by State....” (Dec. 9, 1936, p.1)

“The revival in new home construction in Morris County these recovery years is a story that reads like the multiplication of bacteria in your milk bottle—if you leave it out in the sun too long. New homes built in the County in 19335 cost about \$200,000. This year they will cost \$800,000. In 1937, if there is no hare-brained, runaway boom they should cost in excess of \$1,200,000. This is expansion with a vengeance. And the building contractor is entitled to go about his business with a vengeance. His trade is most precarious. For as long as five years, he may have nothing better to do than rot away at home—perhaps keeping sane by putting new shelves in the upstairs closet or painting the guest room. All of a sudden, with the return of recovery, he is driven to an excess of work. If merchants and other businessmen are envious of the geometric expansion in building totals, they should remember that almost everyone but the contractor could turn an idle penny in the deepest trough, the darkest moment of the depression. At that time, the contractor had only to bite his fingernails.” (editorial, Dec. 10, 1936)

“ROCKAWAY – Mayor Jon Crane broke out last night in an unexpected attack on the Morris County Welfare Board for its “big office and for paying all those fancy salaries.” He accused the Board of wanting to see a lot of people on relief so there would be more detailed work to do and hence more pay. “They’ve got a game to draw big salaries,” he charged....Calling relief a “racket,” Crane declared “there should be a showdown between the borough here and the welfare board. They want us to appropriate a lot, but I can’t see it, because times are much better and jobs much more numerous.” Complying with a request from the State Financial Assistance Commission, Relief Director Alfred Rarick estimated Rockaway’s relief in 1937 will cost \$3,600. When he told the council he spent \$2,175 during the past eight months, the Mayor commented sourly that the ERA “spent \$3,100 in one month early this year.” Crane has been a consistent champion of economy in relief. A letter from Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter of the welfare board was the apparent provocation for the Mayor’s outburst. She asked the council to appropriate \$4,000 for 1937 relief....” (Dec. 11, 1936, p.1)

“The Morris County Welfare Board is “not trying to build up a relief demand but only to meet the genuine demand which already exists,” Board President Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter asserted in a press release this morning....Mrs. Streeter saw the Mayor as “somewhat confused about the operations of the board. He seems to fear that the board will encourage people to go on temporary relief when they could work. “But on the contrary,” she declared, “the board has co-operated fully with Rockaway Borough by appointing the town’s own nominee, Police Chief Alfred Rarick, as the representative of the board in charge of local temporary relief. An increase in Rockaway relief clients would not mean “more fat salaries” for the board but only more headaches for Chief Rarick.” Mrs. Streeter said she did “not know what the Mayor meant by ‘all

those fancy salaries.’ The eight members of the welfare board serve without pay and have never even made a charge for their expenses. The paid staff receive salaries well within the ranges set up as standards by the State Department of Institutions and Agencies.”...The only temporary relief given in the borough and charged against it during that time has been given by Chief Rarick, and we expect this plan to continue in 1937. “So it can hardly be a ‘racket’ conducted by the welfare board (as Mayor Crane charged), nor do I see any occasion for a ‘showdown between the borough and the board’ (as mayor Crane suggested), because we have so far managed to cooperate in a very friendly fashion.” The balance of Mrs. Streeter’s reply follows: “The work done at the board’s Morristown office is chiefly the determination of Old Age Assistance and Permanent Relief Grants. In November, there were 45 persons in Rockaway Borough receiving \$743 in Old Age Assistance and 12 receiving \$188 on Permanent Relief. This is at the rate of over \$11,000 per year, all of which together with administrative costs comes from Federal, State, and County funds. “Were it not for this service now rendered to its citizens through the board without direct cost of Rockaway, this entire burden would fall on the borough, for these people are unable to work. “In addition, the board commits all children to the Morris County Children’s Home and to the Home Life Department of the State Board of Children’s Guardians; operates the Welfare House; and investigates all commitments to State and County institutions. In all these categories of relief, Rockaway Borough has proportionate representatives, so it would appear the borough benefits considerably from the services of the board. “The remarks of Mayor Crane seem to have been precipitated by a letter signed by me suggesting that Rockaway put \$4,000 in its budget for temporary relief in 1937. Similar letters have gone to all Morris County municipalities. We were careful to state that this figure was only an estimate, since no one knows what action the Legislature will take toward making State funds available. Presumably, some municipal contribution will be required....” ” (Dec. 12, 1936, p.1)

“WASHINGTON – A revamped NRA wiping out so-called “unfair practices” is sought by the Council for Industrial Progress as the way out of America’s economic maladjustments. The CIP’s proposals are, however, rather nebulous. Whereas the council seeks to remove “labor oppression”, child labor, and wages “below proper labor standards”, it is aware of the constitutional barriers attendant on defining these terms. Necessary provisos to the employment of minors would, for example, require long and complex phraseology. If farmers’ boys and girls are exempted from child labor legislation, how would seasonal employment in cranberry harvesting and cotton and berry picking be prevented? Still these activities for children are held to constitute some of the worst abuses of child labor. Further, the CIP asks in general that business men adopt a national point of view in an attempt to end thinking in terms of one’s own business alone. But a national point of view is difficult for even Congress to maintain at times and is therefore an angle of which a small business man may be considered consistently incapable of holding. Everyone demands an arrangement permitting freedom for business to exercise initiative and to reap a maximum profit, as well as a plan placing governmental checks upon harmful competition and the unfair treatment of labor and the consumer. This is a large order....In view of the outlawing of the original NRA and in view of the bitterness exercised against the White House in the last election, Roosevelt, it is thought, will be careful to maintain more friendly relations with commerce....” (Dec. 12, 1936, p.1)

“Figures on the volume of retail sales in Morristown, payrolls, etc., compiled in the recent nation-wide census of business conducted by the Bureau of the Census were released for publication thru the Morristown Chamber of Commerce today. According to these figures the total volume in 1935 was \$10,285,000 in 340 stores as compared with \$9,906,000 in 367 stores in 1933. There was no survey in 1934....Stores in the business survey, making the total include 124 food stores, 47 eating and drinking places, 10 in the general merchandise group, 35 in the

apparel group, 25 automotive, 18 filling stations, 17 furniture, household and radio outlets, 13 lumber, building and hardware establishments, 10 drug store, 3 liquor stores (packaged) and 38 other stores. The total average number of employees, full-time and part-time is 1,154 representing a total payroll for 1935 of \$1,218,000....” (Dec. 12, 1936, p.1)

“**MADISON** – The Morris County League of Women Voters met in Baldwin Hall of Drew University yesterday afternoon to hold an open discussion of “Cooperation,” with addresses by Dr. Kingsland Roberts of the medical department of the Cooperative League of the United States and Mrs. Frank Fobert of Morristown. Dr. Roberts outlined a cooperative medical plant to provide all medical costs, including hospitalization at reasonable rates. Under his plan the members of a community of more than 1,000 members would organize into a cooperative society to employ the full time services of a medical doctor. As the number of societies in a given locality grew they could band together to organize hospital units to give complete institutional attention to the more serious forms of illness. In each great area, such as a state, cooperative medical centers for the treatment of special illnesses requiring expensive and little used equipment could be organized....Dr. Roberts emphasized the possibilities of preventative medicine under such a system. He pointed out that it would be to the interest of the society to prevent illness to cut down the cost of operating the units. Under the private practice of medicine, doctors, he maintained, find it practically impossible to employ preventative techniques....The cooperative medical societies would pay their doctors a fair salary and would build up reserve funds to finance research, institutions and the cost of materials....Mrs. Fobert, speaking on “Cooperatives in New Jersey,” presented an excellent summary of her studies of the movement in a crystalized report. She gathered the material from sources not available to the general public and gave a review of high academic value....Mrs. Fobert recommended “Sweden—The Middle Way,” by Marquis Childs, and “Cooperative Democracy,” by James Warbasse, as outstanding books on the cooperative movement. She named the Chatham Cooperative Store as a working example of the plan in Morris County....” (Dec. 12, 1936, p.8)

“**DENVILLE** – The “Tarzans” of Company 1256, C. C. C., are shouting their claims to fame, as they check over the final figures on their work in scouting 267 square miles during ten Summer weeks in the fight against the spread of the Dutch elm disease....Foremost among their claims to recognition is the fact that not one lost time accident, major or minor, was chalked up against them as they climbed to the crowns of approximately 6,000 trees. After receiving two weeks intensive training in climbing, rope-tying [sic], identification, sampling, and writing locations, under the direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture experts, the scouts put in 6,405 man-days in the center of the battle front against the disease, with each man scouting an average of 31 acres per day. 2,192 specimens, cut from the crowns of elms suspected of disease, were sent by the crews to the U.S. D. A. Laboratory at Morristown to determine whether the wilting of the leaves was due to the present of graphium ulmi (Dutch elm disease) or to some other cause. Final results showed an unusually high “batting average” for the type of work, as 28%--593 specimens—showed the presence of the disease. In addition to their scouting for healthy trees that were actually diseased the scouting crews also tagged for eradication this Winter 5,969 dead-and-dying trees (DTs). While the DTs may show no actual disease symptoms, they must be seradicated [sic], as they serve as the breeding grounds for the elm betele [sic] which is the mechanical conveyor of the disease. There are 20,000 DTs, tagged by WPA workers in 1935, that will be eradicted [sic] by Co. 1256 during the Winter of 1936-37 in addition to the diseased trees and DTs tagged by themselves. Highlights of the scouting season were the taking of moving pictures of the work by Lt. Patrick B. Fay, sub-district chaplain, and the examination of the work by members of the Columbia University faculty and Dr. Murphy, assistant to the Corps Area Educational Advisor....” (Dec. 12, 1936, p.14)

“Rockaway’s Mayor John Crane broke into headlines last week with a sincere and unmalicious attack on the Morris County Welfare Board. He charged the board with wanting to see more people on relief so that board members themselves would have detail to handle and hence fatten pay envelopes. The Mayor has a habit of being right in most of his pronouncements. But this time he appears he has slipped. The board has a variety of responsibilities. It must take care of Old Age Assistance, Permanent Relief, and Temporary Relief....In fairness to Mayor Crane...it must be admitted that relief is—or has been—a “racket,” as he alleged. New Jersey’s handling of the unemployed under local control, as compared with the old ERA control, has been a form of relief pioneering exemplary to the nation. Obviously, too many people were on relief under the ERA. Local control has ended this abuse.” (editorial, Dec. 14, 1936)

“Letters are being sent to the officials of most Morris County municipalities by representatives of the two local hospitals, Memorial and All Souls, asking for appropriation in the 1937 budget to cover in part the cost of hospital care to indigent patients from the municipalities....The Dover General Hospital, which is not part of the Community Chest, receives a large part of its support from the budgets of the majority of the municipalities it serves. The State laws provided that such appropriation, of one-half of one percent of the ratables, is allowable. The figures compiled for the hospitals show costs of \$147,313.84 for the two hospitals for free patients and about \$66,063.24 received from the Community Chest. There is about \$36,000 more secured from the Board of Freeholders, leaving approximately a \$30,000 shortage. This \$30,000 has to be made up through receipts from paying patients and from endowments. The income from the endowments left to the hospitals has fallen off naturally during depression years as securities dropped in value and there has been a very big drop in income from paid patients recently, this amounting to approximately \$1,000 a month in recent months. The County makes an allotment of \$50,000 a year towards the care of free patients and this is distributed on the proportionate basis of number cared for. This year Dover received about \$14,000, All Souls \$16,000 and Memorial \$19,000. This distribution was passed on 36,065 free patient days for the three hospitals. It is an average of \$138 a day for each patient. Dover General Hospital collects \$48,000 from the municipalities it serves, which plus the \$14,000 from the county makes about \$622,000 in receipts. Memorial and All Souls receive slightly over \$50,000 from the two sources—the county funds and the Community Chest—or less than Dover. The big bulk of the money in the Community Chest comes from Morris Township. That means that a few big donations Convent and Normandie Heights sections makes up the bulk of the Chest funds. The plan of having all municipalities contribute would mean that all of the people would give a small amount directly thru taxes, or indirectly as renters. As the local hospitals now stand...there is no margin for making needed repairs or replacing worn out equipment. The accompanying chart lists the number of free patients form each municipality and the costs....” (Dec. 15, 1936, p.1)

“Commencing in January all employees of the Board of Education will be restored one-half of their salary cuts....The first salary cut of the Board employees occurred in 1932 when a 10 percent reduction was made. One half of this will be given back, so that five percent still remains from the original salaries of the workers. Some of the teachers received an additional five percent cut in 1934 and one-half of this also will be restored. The deductions made range from 10 to 15 percent now, with those in the lower brackets taking the smaller cuts. The percentages were based on the 1928-29 scale. The teachers and janitors will receive back from 5 to 7 ½ percent, therefore, of their original cuts. The money to pay for the restoration of salaries form January to June will come out of the current budget, representing savings through economies and from June on the money will be included in the annual budget, which will be made up and voted upon in February. The question of partial or full restoration has been before

the Board for some months and after a complete investigation on finances, current living costs and other details the decision for return of half the pay was made....” (Dec. 16, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON**, (AP) – An unemployment compensation plan, which would require employers and employees to contribute to a general state pool, was recommended today by a majority of the State Social Security Commission....Approval of the majority report by 10 members of the commission, including the five legislative representatives, Labor Commissioner John Toohey, a Democrat, and Vincent J. Murphy, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, was taken as an indication of possible bi-partisan support by the Legislature. The majority plan, known as Plan D, provides for employer contribution of .9 percent for 1936; 1.8 percent for 1937, and 2.7 percent thereafter except as effected by merit rating. The employee would contribute 1 per cent after 1937....The majority said that on the basis of statistics of wages paid and employment in New Jersey since 1922 it was found that Plan D would have been able to pay all the benefits set forth in the contract to workers covered and would have remained solvent throughout a period which has included the most disastrous cycle of unemployment in the world’s history”....”Calculations show that the total reserve would have approached some \$115,000,000 at its peak and would have declined to less than \$65,000,000 when drained to the lowest point of the cycle, but would have recovered to substantially more than \$83,000,000 of assets by the present time. In the period of the depression, 1930-36, total distributions from the fund would have exceeded \$280,000,000.” The majority listed these benefits from its plan: 1—It will guarantee recapture by New Jersey of the 90 per cent credit allowed by the Federal Government, amounting to between \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 the first year. 2—It contains a general pooling provision, upheld by the United States Supreme Court in the New York case. 3—Provides for merit rating under which, beginning in 1942, those employers whose employment will benefit by lower contribution rates. 4—Benefits amount approximately to halfpay, up to \$15 a week for 16 weeks. 5—As contrasted to the New York law, it provides for contribution by employees, thus strengthening the resources of the pool and making possible a longer period of unemployment benefits without sacrificing “financial soundness”. (Without these employe contributions, the computations indicate funds under the theoretical act set up in 1922 would have been exhausted in 1932 or 1933.)....” (Dec. 16, 1936, p. 1 & 15)

“The announcement yesterday that Morris County’s municipalities must begin, through direct budgetary appropriations, to meet part of the costs of Memorial and All Souls’ Hospitals will appear unwarranted and a complete surprise to some towns....On November 3, the masses in the United States said in effect: “We approve of an administration that soaks the rich and helps support the poor.” It is human nature for wealthy persons to say in effect, in view of the mandate for Roosevelt: “We dislike continuing to support the masses who want to soak us.” So...the Morris Community Chest faces the fact that the rich are giving increasingly less each year. This decline in large contributions results in a smaller chest total and the need to make up hospital deficits from other sources. One of those other sources has turned out to be municipal budgets in the towns of Morris County. Is there any more natural or more logical source to turn to? (editorial, Dec. 16, 1936)

“A burnt child fears the fire, according to the wisdom of the ancients, and it looks very much as if the American people have not in any way forgotten the scorching they took when the 1929 boom went up in smoke. For an odd phenomenon is observable these days. The business indices shows us to be approaching a new boom—and people everywhere are looking away beyond it and seeing another slump coming. They are approaching this new boom cautiously, keeping their fingers crossed....A depression is supposed to be a good time to make reforms, because during a depression the people are willing to experiment, whereas they tend to be

opposed to change in time of prosperity. But a depression creates an atmosphere of fear. It brings extremists and crackpots to the top, and they get a following they cannot command at any other time. Their excesses, in turn, make conservative folk feel that any concession to change is likely to lead to disaster. It is different when times are good....Men of opposing beliefs can meet calmly and discuss what needs to be done. There is time to take the long view...." (editorial, Dec. 16, 1936)

A picture essay appeared in the December 16, 1936 paper on p.13 titled "Girls Live in Camps Just Like C.C.C. How Uncle Sam is Training Jobless Women For Fresh Start". "...In a project typical of those being set up in seven states by the National Youth Administration, these girls are learning how to make a living and how to enjoy such relaxation as the ball game, shown below....Sense of responsibility is developed by placing the girls, who range in age from 18 to 25 years, "on their own" in many duties. One of these is to make their own beds....This dressing table...was made by students for temporary use, from crates and fruit boxes. Many girls make their own skirts and blouses....Physical education, home economics, music, dramatics, and handicraft are among subjects offered in the four-month school term. The group above is painting toys and dolls to fulfill outside work requirements...."

"Mayor John Crane of Rockaway demanded today that the Morris County Welfare Board pursue a "hands-off policy" in regard to emergency relief in his municipality....Mayor Crane asserted in his letter "in the past week I find throughout the County that sentiment is very heavy in support of a hands-off policy on local relief."...Police Chief Alfred Rarick was appointed local relief director, but Crane wrote that the "welfare board has fallen flat on this agreement. It has issued relief orders over the head of Chief Rarick. Its representatives have strongly insisted that the chief issue orders to parties who the chief did not think were entitled....Chief Rarick was held better able to administer relief than the board "because he knows more about our people....When workers are paid a salary to administer relief, it creates an incentive of [sic] have plenty of relief in order to keep drawing the salary. In the past this very thing has been admitted to me by workers. The board increases the amount of bills we are called on to pay." " (Dec. 17, 1936, p.1)

"One of the most alarming features of the depression, it will be remembered, was the phenomenon of the so-called wild boys and girls of the road. In May, 1933, for instance, a federal survey revealed that more than 50,000 boys and girls between 16 and 25 were in transient centers, cared for by already overburdened charitable agencies. Now it is revealed that the problem has melted away with the return of good times...." (editorial, Dec. 17, 1936, p.16)

"It is good to read Harry Hopkins' assurance that no person in actual need is going to be cut off the relief rolls this winter. In various cities the pruning-down of work relief rolls was accomplished in a pretty hard-boiled manner, during the last few weeks. While it is unquestionably true that a number of skulkers and shirkers were thereby removed from the public payroll, the plain fact remains that we still have an enormous number of unemployed people who are unable to find work in private industry...." (editorial, Dec. 17, 1936, p.16)

"The liquidation of relief rolls in the face of improved business conditions and more widespread employment in private industry is to be expected and encouraged but recent developments indicate the caution and discretion with which it must be taken. During the past two years thousands of WPA workers have faced being laid off as State Administrator Ely announced that 8,000 men would be dismissed. At the same time Federal Administrator Hopkins announced that "No person who needs relief will be dropped." It is hardly possible that 8,000 WPA workers

could find jobs in private businesses during the next few weeks. Considerable time will be necessary for industry to absorb the WPA workers and the rate at which they are laid off should be attuned to this contingency. Recovery has proceeded at so rapid a pace during the past few months that a gradual reduction of relief projects should be possible without throwing off relief anyone who cannot obtain private employment. The job of WPA administrators now is to proceed with dismissals only after ascertaining that the workers dropped will obtain regular employment and that their dismissal from WPA rolls will work no hardship....” (editorial from the Asbury Park Press, published in The Morristown Daily Record Dec. 17, 1936, p.16)

“The Aldermen opened a fight last night to keep the WPA headquarters for four counties in Morristown and will write to state and national officials in an effort to prevent it from being completely transferred to Perth Amboy on January 1, as is now planned. Alderman Edward Broderick....proposed that they leave an office here with sufficient force to hand local matters. The WPA was laying off many and this was causing a rise in relief....A second part of the same resolution was the urging that worthwhile projects be continued and as many deserving people as possible be kept on WPA projects....” (Dec. 19, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – Through its Legislature in special session tonight, New Jersey hopes to adopt a plan to get its share of Federal unemployment insurance monies....Both parties, it now seems, are in favor of a salaried commission on the ground it would mean patronage for the two machines....” (Dec. 21, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – An unemployment insurance bill known as Plan D was passed by the Legislature early today. Not a dissenting vote was cast...Democrats in the House forced the sole major amendment to the measure. They were successful in obliging the Governor to appoint at least three Democrats to the seven-man board which will administer the insurance act.” (Dec. 22, 1936, p.1)

“**WHARTON** – An untotaled huge list of uncollected taxes, dating back for ten years, was submitted to the Council by tax collector Dan G. Fichter for the purpose of remission last night at the regular monthly meeting of that body. These taxes, for the greater part, are property taxes....The act of remitting the enormous list of uncollected taxes was spurned by Councilman Francis J. Porter and then by Mayor Howard O. Winch, who in turn referred the matter to the finance committee for further deliberation....A communication from the Morris County Welfare Board, declared that there is a deficit of \$1,047.83 on Wharton’s account for temporary relief, which must be paid by December 21....the money will have to be raised in some manner or another and...may have to be put into the budget, under the new budget act. The William J. Hocking Post 91, American Legion informed the Council that it will not continue the Christmas party for the poor children this year as it feels that conditions have improved considerably....” (Dec. 22, 1936, p.1)

“Morristown ended its year in better financial shape with small balances in practically every department and no need of borrowing against anticipated taxes. The Board of Aldermen, meeting last night to finish up the year’s business and pay bills, found cause to congratulate itself on the success of the first year of the pay-as-you-go plan....One thing about which practically all members agreed was that there should be some partial restoration of salaries which have been cut during the part four or five years....There was a balance of \$8,047.77 for WPA projects and this will be continued as some of these jobs are still underway and will go on in 1937....\$6,647.55 was left in the poor account....Roache proposed they recommend to the incoming board restoration of pay cuts....Mayor W. Parsons Todd said that last spring they were anxious to put in

partial restoration of cuts but the great volume of the appropriations and the necessity of keeping the taxes down prevented it. The employees have worked well and deserve the restoration of their salaries, he said....” (Dec. 22, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – Democratic senators went on a filibustering expedition last night. They refused to consider any legislation except the Social Security although Governor Harold Hoffman, in a special message delivered at a joint session of the House and Senate, urged appropriation bills settling the State’s indebtedness to the schools, transfer of \$1,5000,000 to the State Finance Commission to take care of relief and revision of the municipal budget law. Late yesterday afternoon while the Republican leaders were in conference over Social Security and other bills which they proposed introducing, Alexander Crawford, High Priest of the Democrats, who talks only to Jersey City on a private wire from the State House, told your correspondent nothing but Social Security would be considered at this Special session....When copies of the Social Security bill were handed lawmakers it was discovered by Democrats that changes had been made to what had been agreed upon in conferences. It seems all sorts of changes had been made during the last few days; some declared to be slips of the printer, or artfully accomplished....”(Dec. 22, 1936, p.7; article by Wood Vance)

“Morristown High School ranks high in the support of local municipal welfare organizations. For over ten years the high school has cooperated in the Christmas works of these groups. Not only at Yuletide does the high school help but all through the year it assists the Child Hygiene Nurses in supplying glasses, medicine, special food, etc. to children in the high school and grade schools. The school is organized under the Junior Civic Association, of which the adviser in [sic] Mrs. Martha Hoppler....Toy and clothing collection work started before Thanksgiving. woodworking and metal shops repaired and painted toys; sewing rooms mended and dressed dolls and repaired clothing; the art room turned itself into a make-up room for faded dolls; the cooking rooms donated home-made jellies and canned fruits. The Dramatic Club contributed its talents by presenting “The Columbine Madonna,” a Christmas play on which the sum of \$75 was earned. This fund was used for the purchasing of meat, butter, oranges and so forth. The distribution was supervised by the Child Hygiene Nurses Association. The families recommended were checked by the Social Service Exchange. Food and toys for 120 people were provided this [sic]. Toys alone were distributed to dozens more. Donations were received from the high school P-T-A, Orion N. Hughson, Inc.. Sam Schwartz of the South Street Market furnished meat and groceries at cost, and thereby assisted greatly in the Christmas project. The Commercial Club of the high school also helped and in its own efforts contributed a basket for an entire family. The parents of the pupils were also generous in their support.” (Dec. 24, 1936, p.5)

“**MADISON** – Forty-five Madison borough employees hope Mayor Wilson D. Morris will include in his New Year’s Day address a resolution to abolish the ten per cent pay cuts which have been effective since 1932. The employees base their hopes largely on the fact that the Board of Education this year abandoned the salary slices deducted from teachers’ envelopes. In restoring the teachers’ cuts the Board of Education pointed out that business conditions are better than they have been in several years and that the need for emergency relief is practically ended. The cost of living in Madison is rising, the board claimed, making it difficult for teachers to maintain “the standard of living expected of them” on reduced incomes. Borough employees believe that the improved economic conditions in the community since 1932 should be reflected towards them, the same as it has been towards the teachers. Although they are not organized in any way to press their claims for “full pay envelopes,” they have frequently asked for the

abolitions of the cuts. The technical procedure by which the pay cuts would be eliminated would center around negative action. The council during the past four years has passed a salary bill authorizing the payment of the employees' pay checks, and then it has passed a resolution to reduce the pay checks by 10 percent. In order to restore the full pay envelopes the council will need only to pass the salary bill without the deduction resolution tacked on. The cuts amount to about \$5,000...." (Dec. 29, 1936, p.1)

"The need for municipal support for care of the poor sick in the Morristown hospitals was discussed at a dinner-meeting attended by about 50, representing the hospitals, Community Chest, Board of Freeholders and eight municipalities last night at the Morris County Golf Club. Paul Moore of Convent was host....The object of the meeting was to discuss informally and explain the needs of the hospitals for aid in caring for poor sick, those unable to contribute anything or only a small part for their hospitalization....While it appeared to be a county problem, as practically every municipality sends patients to the local hospitals, the Freeholders explained their present situation with the greatly increased relief costs. Director Griffith.... pointed out that there was an increase of \$20,000 in the general county contribution to hospitals since he went on the board and \$25,000 was given for the contagious hospital, this relieving municipalities of individual bills....The cost of indigent patients, said Griffith, was going up by leaps and bounds. It was \$200,500 in 1925 and last year, with old age and other items added, it was \$603,000....Loughlin and Bassett explained how the plan worked for the Dover Hospital and relieved it when it was in such dire straits [sic] that it appeared as if it would have to close. A meeting of the municipalities were held and all went along with one exception. The then Mayor of Netcong, Thomas Koclas, pledged his aid but the borough did not give it the first year and he went out personally and raised the funds. Thereafter Netcong was in....Bassett declaredIt is the duty of the municipality which sends people to care for them...pointing out it cost Jersey City \$1,350,000 and Newark \$800,000 a year. They pay it and like it, he declared.... Mr. Epstein told of the struggles at All Souls', and said storekeepers hadn't a thing on the sisters in charge in squeezing a penny. They were working under handicaps with the shortage of funds making a vicious circle....Dr. VanBeuren, who had more than 30 years experience as a surgeon and was connected with the Presbyterian and other large hospitals..., said he never realized even with his long connection as a surgeon of the needs for beds, materials, money, and other items. He pointed out the Presbyterian Hospital had an endowment of \$12,000,000 but was still in the red....The hospitals will never have to ask the communities to support the hospitals but only to pay for the sick poor, he declared....It was not the temper of the public to let anyone go sick or poor...and asked wasn't the care of the sick as important to a community as education...."The principle of passing the hat for charity is wrong as a certain few pays and many who are financially able to contribute absolutely refuse to do so, "declared former Senator Abell. By law, he pointed out, municipalities were charged with the care of their indigent poor and therefore it was a legal obligation....Seven years of relief has created a new type of public dependents, continued Abell....It used to be the "poor house" but under the beneficence it is now the "Welfare House"...." (Dec. 29, 1936, p.1 and 3)

"Financing by unemployment relief in New Jersey is being distinguished by something in the nature of a phenomenon. Only 6 or 7 months ago the problem was one that baffled the legislature, citizens who had given the matter considerable thought, and the people of the state generally. Now it is being met with almost inconceivable effectiveness....Improved employment conditions, together with the work provided by WPA projects have made it possible for municipalities to meet their relief responsibilities with a minimum of outside help. These circumstances indicate that the winter ahead will hold far less difficult problems than any since the beginning of the depression, six years ago...." (editorial from the Trenton State Gazette,

published in the Morristown Daily Record Dec. 29, 1936, p.4)

From the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Dec. 30, 1936, p.4: “The perennial twin problems of budget-balancing and unemployment relief probably will cause the 75th Congress and the administration no end of trouble....The one place where federal expenditures might be drastically cut is in the relief category, and the hard-hearted budget-balancers and the soft-hearted humanitarians already are warring about that. The first struggle will come when Congress determines the size of the deficiency appropriation to carry WPA for the five months beginning with February. Roosevelt recently intimated at a press conference that he felt \$500,000,000 would be enough for the appropriation. If he sticks to that and Congress supports him, there will inevitably be a drastic cut in the WPA rolls. That would mean an average expenditure of only \$100,000,000 a month, whereas WPA has been costing about \$165,000,000 a month. There are now about 2,375,000 WPA workers and no such reduction in expense could be made without dismissing at least a third of them. Harry Hopkins, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the WPA workers and many members of Congress will vigorously resist proposals to liquidate WPA. In reply to assertions of the budget-balancers that the pickup in business and industrial production should be matched by corresponding WPA cuts, they say it just doesn't make sense. There are, roughly, about 4,000,000 heads of families or persons receiving federal or local aid and about 4,000,000 others unemployed who receive no aid. Most of those being hired by private industry, it is said, come from the latter group. The budget-balancers insist that the relief problem should be turned back to the cities and towns. Hopkins and his group insist that turning WPA workers over to local politicians just means mass misery....”

“**BUDD LAKE** – The Mt. Olive Township Committee decided to apply for PWA aid in constructing a municipal building, at a meeting held last Monday night. The site or cost of the proposed structure were not decided upon....” (Dec. 30, 1936, p.6)

“The Board of Freeholders will cut out all pay deductions for 1937, it was decided at a conference of members yesterday afternoon. Beginning tomorrow, all salaries will be on the 1929 basis. Several reasons were given for the elimination of the cuts, principally the fact that the cost of living has been going up steadily. The county is in excellent financial condition, due to careful management, and the expectations are that the tax rate for 1937 will be the same as this year....The restoration of the regular pay means a total of about \$15,000 more in the budget but this is less than a point in the tax rate and will probably be offset by other economies and the ratables. The Freeholders were among the very first to put pay cuts into effect, taking action even before the Legislature authorized it. During the first couple of years, before there was a law allowing it, the employees willingly took these cuts. The amount of the deductions were also higher than in most municipalities, running to 17 ½ percent on the top salaries. Two years ago the percentages were reduced with nine percent as top.” (Dec. 31, 1936, p.1)

“With the passing of the old year, the Morris County Welfare Board comes of age. Board office workers today took formal notice of five years' activity with a staff luncheon at the Hotel Pranz.” (Dec. 31, 1936, p.7)