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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



BULLETIN

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Vol. III. No. 4

Roosevelt, New Jersey

December 1979

\$170,000 local grant cleared by county panel

By Bob Clark

At the Borough Council's regular monthly meeting on December 12, Mayor Leon Barth announced that the Monmouth County Steering Committee recommended approval of rederal Housing and Urban Development (MUD) Community Development Block Grants for Roosevelt totaling \$170,000.

Upon approval by the County Free-holders and AUD, the money will be added to a \$150,000 grant approved earlier this year, \$300,000 will be used for repairs or replacement of water and sewer lines in a designated "target" neighborhood, \$20,000 will be used to provied grants to qualified residents in the neighborhood for housing rehabilitation. Qualification details will be described in next month's Bulletin.

The Council passed the Borough's revised zoning ordinance on final reading. It also gave final approval to an ordinance prohibiting parking in front of the Borough hall.

Time for dog licenses

All does must be licensed during the month of January. Licenses are avail able at the Borough hall between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00. The fee is \$4.00, though each month's delay adds \$1.00 to the fee, according to Llizabeth Ann Johnson, Borough Clerk.

As soon as signs are posted, the ordinance will be enforced.

Mayor Barth extended the Council's thanks to Council members Ted Marton and Esther Pogrebin, who will leave the Council at the end of December. Both declined to seek reelection. Barth praised their years of effort on behalf of the community. Les Weiner and Jan Terry were elected to fill the seats vacated by Marton and Pogrebin.

On the recommendation of Borough Engineer James DeMuro, the Council applied for a grant of up to \$24,570 in state aid to repave Nurko Road. The money will come from the recently-enacted transportation bond issue. It represents 90% of the estimated cost of the project. The Borough will provide the balance. The job will be advertised for competitive bids. Construction must begin by Sept.I, 1980.

The Council approved the addition of up to \$2957 to an existing contract with Water Specialists Inc. to perform water plant work with leftover HUD Community Development grants. The work should begin this month and will include \$17,865 for a new aerator, \$300 for a valve for an antifreezing device and the \$2957 amount for a valve that will allow isolation and repair of a flow meter. Some officials expect that the repairs, which are required by the federal government, will help to remedy the "red water" (Cont'd. on Page 2) (Cont'd. from Page 1)

Council member Bill Counterman announced that the Borough is installing additional posts to prevent vehicular traffic on the foot and bicycle portion of Valley Road between Lake Drive and the dome houses near Farm Lane.

Council member Aaron Datz praised the recent poetry and jazz session in the Borough Hall. He recomm- ation meeting was scheduled for ended that the Council continue its

support of such events, mentioning the upcoming reading of two plays by Les Weiner scheduled for Jan. 5.

Borough Clerk Liz Johnson is looking into complaints of chlorine problem experienced in some parts of odor from the water in some residences.

> At the agenda meeting on Dec. IC the Council discussed policy concerning replies to correspondence from residents and availability of part time officials to answer requests for information. No consensus developed as to proper standards or procedures.

The Council's annual reorganiz-Jan . 2. 1980.

Seniors petition against Social Security tax plan

By nelga wisowat,

ine New Jerse, receration of Senior Citizens called a protest demostration at the state house in frenton on Dec. II, in response to the Advisory Committee on Social Security's recommendation that 50% of all Social Security payments be taxed.

No member of the moosevelt Senior Citizens Club was able to attend the demonstration, but a petition with many signatures was sent to Senators marrison williams and bill Braule, in wasnington urging them to vote asainst such a tax. A similar petition is posted on the Senior's bulletin board in the Roosevelt rost Office.

The noliday ainner, nels on Dec. 9 at Over the Bridge Inn, was a great success. More than 50 Rooseveltians attended. Gloria Berman, Tormerl, of Roosevelt, sano, and Leo Libove pla, ea the manaolin.

Inere will not be a Senior meeting in January. The next one will be nela on reb.6, at 2:50 p.m. at the Borough nall.



(609) 448-0064

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EDITH ERNSTEIN

16 PINE DRIVE ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY 08555

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly by the Roosevelt PTA, Roosevelt, New Jersey

Staff Responsibilities

Pat Antosky...typist

Helen Barth...typing, copy editing Peter Berlinrut...Issues & Debate, features Bob Clark...borough news Dave Cooper...art, headlines, ad layout Jim Dulicai...editor Lynn Frank...business/ad manager Lynn Friedman...circulation manager, social/ calendar news

Freda Hepner... Culture News David Herrstrom...features Beth Johnson...food column, school news Norma Kushner...treasurer, ad sales Andrea Lakin...layout, headlines, art Anne Parisi...layout Merle Rose...features, headlines Arthur Shapiro...features, Minutes Ago Elly Shapiro...features Hortense Socholitzky...copy editing, administration

Helga Wisowaty...senior news

Store reported free of zoning violations

By Bob Clark

At the regular monthly Planning Board meeting on Nov. 26, Zoning Off. st aid and fire rescue efforts. ne zoning viclations at the store nau been corrected. Building Inspector Peter Berlinrut added that the Municipal Court had ordered the store owners to resolve non-zoning violations by Dec. 19. These included cracked cement, unpainted facia board and insufficient paint on the approvals should be reflected in Farm Lane side.

stove pipes. Some have evidently been installed in an unsightly or unsafe manner. The Board reached a pipes require building permits so that the Underwriters Laborator, certification can be checked. The Board also decided to urge the Borough Council to direct the fire written minutes marshal to conduct fire safety inspections.

Board member Roy Perry reported that many residents still shun reflective street numbers on their houses. Terry said that this seriously hampers firicer Paul Eichler reported that all will obtain a copy of an East windsor ordinance which mandates such numbers so that the Board can study whether a similar ordinance should be recommended for Roosevelt.

Eichler asked the board to improve its record keeping procedures. Ae said that all site plan and other documents on rile at the Borough nall. Berlinrut asked for guidance con- Berlinrut said that he could stamp cerning proliferating chimneys and his building permit tiles to indicate site plan approvals. Page recording of meetings include decisions regarding official actions interminated with consensus that chimneys and exhaust other proceedings of the Board, but they are not indexed or reduced to written minutes as required by the States Municipal Land Use Law. The Flanning Board has no clerk to prepare

Special tax deductions

Paxpayers wishing to apply for a veteran, veteran's widow, senior citizen, disabled person, or surviving spouse of aisabled person or senior citizen tax acauctions may obtain the necessary forms and further information from either Tax Assessor Michael Ticktin or Tax Collector Louise Prezant.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Until further notice garbage collection will begin at 6 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.

Elizabeth Ann Johnson, Borough Clerk

GLORIA ADLERMAN BERNICE SCHMALZBACH

ATLAS WORLD TRAVEL INC.

104 Mercer Street Hightstown, N.J. 08520 448-4272

Bottom line of top-notch Art Fair:\$1750

By Elly Shapiro

We have wine and cheese and we Jaeger, general "go-Ters", net talk. The consensus from the P.T.A. er said "No" to a chore. Shell Board and the Art Fair Committee is led the "clean up" brigade that a one day sale is almost as propert and all, slept (or dian't ofitable as a two day sale and only sleep at all, depending on with part of the work. We see that door one you speak to) at the school attendance was down slightly from the night before the sale. A

last year.

the sale began late in the summer, just barely giving those July Fourth it came time to set up. Fuolic-workers among us a chance to recuperate. We remembered the frequent meetings that kept us in contact, and the progress we made toward our target date the week-end before Thanksgiving. It was known that as an Art Sale, ours enjoyed a prestigious reputation. We know because some people showed up a week early and some a week late, and some called or wrote to ask so they would not miss it.

As we talk, we tally money. In 1978, the two day show raised only \$400 more than the one day show total of \$1750 this year. We grin when we realize how much this amount will help our Summer Program. Some say that this dip in profit is due to the economy. So, what else is new?

Even if they didn't buy, those who came ate, and ate well. The refreshment committee, co-chaired by Judith Goetzmann and Laura Giordane collected nearly IOO cakes, generously baked by the townspeople. Hats off, three cheers and raise a glass to all those involved in this endeavor. Profits of almost \$300 were realized.

You look around the room... We also tally our good fortune in workers. The children were entertained by splatter painting under the leadership of Jan Terry. Her son Kevin designed and built the special screens. Younger tots were watched

over by a committee headed by Pat Antosky and staffed by many Borough teens. Nanc, warnick and Sheila Jaeger, general "go-Ters", never said "No" to a chore. Sheila the "clean up" brigade. sleep at all, depending on which one you speak to) at the school the night before the sale. A much needed, not much sought alter job. non Urlando and rnil Jaeger were invaluable when ity was nanaled of Michelle ROCKOIT, WHO Waited like an expectant mother till her articles appeared. Ine, were g orgeous! And of course Sand, Orlando, our producer-director wno along with Jan Terry nanalea all the technical advice.

All in all, like a well orchestrated musical piece, it finally came together. Sunday the committee was there from aawn to dusk. When finally, the room being swept, the semi-sadness of "closing up" sweeps along. What a let down to find it suddenly over for another year.

prag nome, smile at your nusband/wife for the first time in three weeks, and take off your shoes. Relax... you have six months before you have to think of the Art Sale again. Jon't you want to be involved next year? I can't wait!



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VISIT BRAND NEW "DEPT. II"

Vote turnout in state is far behind borough's

of Roosevelt's 584 registered voters went to the polls to elect a mayor and others? That gave the borough a 77.6 percent turnout.

Now, what about the state as a whole? An all-time low, post-election figures show. Less than half of the state's registered voters bothered to go to the polls Trenton's Sunday Times Advertiser reported.

"It was a record-low turnout partially because less prestigious offices were at the top of the ticket, but also because of a trend of voter apathy that is still growing," the paper quoted Neil Upmeyer, director of the state election division as saying.

Statistics from Secretary of State

Remember early last month, when 453 Donald E. Lan showed that only 48 percent of New Jersey's 3.5 million registered voters turned out for the election, the first time less than 50 percent voted in New Jersey history.

> Only 32.2 percent of the state's 5.3 million elegible voters turned out at the polls this year, less than the 35 percent predicted by the election division.

This year was the "worst of the recent worsts" in a steady decline of voter interest that started in 1950, said Upmeyer in the Times Advertiser.

Before this year, the lowest point of voter interest came in the 1950s when only 61 percent voted in an off-year Assembly election. In 1960, for the presidential election that pitted John F. Kennedy against Richard M. Nixon, 91 percent voted.

Advisory panel needed for sewage-work grant

The borough is applying for a Step I Grant to upgrade the existing sewage treatment plant. The project would receive a 75% federal construction grant.

As part of the study, an Advisory Committee will be needed to solicit and respond to public comments on the proposed project. A copy of the plan of study is on file at the Borough Hall.

If you want to serve on the Advisory Committee, contact Major Leon Barth in writing within the next 30 days.

BURGHARDIS WELCOMED TO TOWN

John and Nina Burghardt moved to 45 Tamara Drive in October. They have three children, Kantha, 6 years old, Benjamin and Peter 2g yrs. John is an economist and is presently employed at Mathematica in Princeton.

NEEDED: A typist with an electric typewriter, to give approximately one week per month to preparing Borough Bulletin copy for the printer. This is a paid job. Please call Helen Barth 448-1870 or H. Socholitzky 448-2502.

DEBRA CIRULLO

20 North Valley Road Roosevelt, N.J. 08555 448-8125



Funds for Gantwerk trip withdrawn

By Hortense Socholitzky

More than a dozen members of the public were present at the Dec. II meeting of the Board of Education. They urged the board to reconsider its November vote to spend up to \$I.500 to send the principal to a conference of the Association of School Administrators in California in February.

Most who spoke feel that whatever benefits might accrue to the
Roosevelt School from Lew Gantwerk's
attendance were not worth the cost.
"Get all the tapes, handouts, records,
etc.," said Howard Chasan, "but keep
the administrator at home." "Even
if the conference is excellent,"
said Irv Rose, "it's too much money."

Marilyn Magnes thought it "inappropriate" to spend so much to send one person to a conference.

Myron Sheinberg wanted to know what the board and the school might gain from this conference. He asked "what is wrong with Roosevelt Public School?" that attendance at such a conference is needed.

The board's vote was defended by President George Katz, Education Committee chairperson Cynthia Horowitz and board member David Zaleski.

Board member Merle Rose, who had previously voted for the trip, reintroduced the question. This time the vote was 4 in favor and 4 against. Vertisement for absentee ballots including the president's vote. The principal will not attend.

the rate paid by the state. It was voted to join other Monmouth County districts in a group adtribute the vote was 4 in favor and 4 against. The principal will not attend.

Board member Merle Rose, who had the rate paid by the state. It was voted to join other Monmouth County districts in a group adtribute the vote was 4 in favor and 4 against. The principal will not attend.

In further action, the board voted to hire Joyce Rappeport to replace Ilene Levine who will be on maternity leave from Jan.I to June 30, I980. She will be paid according to the M.A. scale, on step 4. The board also authorized Ms. Rappeport to spend three days in the week of Dec.I7 with Ms. Levine and her second grade class in order to smooth the transition.

The resignation of Susan Danoff, teacher of English and Social Studies

in 6th,7th and 8th grades, was accepted.

A Resource Room program was established by unanimous vote of the board to accommodate the needs of four children recently transferred to the school who are judged to be educationally handicapped. This will require a special teacher for one-half time. It must be approved by the County Superintendent. The board also approved application for Title I funds to meet this expense.

David Herrstrom, chairperson of the Building an Grounds Committee, introduced a tentative report on the architect's study which found the school building structurally sound, but below standard in energy efficiency. Changes proposed in the report would cost about \$200,000. Herrstrom will request a statement from the architect on priorities, and alternatives that would improve energy efficiency at a much lower cost.

The board voted early closing for Dec. 2I, the last school day before the winter vacation. This is usual, but inadvertently left out of this year's calendar.

The board voted to increase mileage reimbursement to 16 cents. the rate paid by the state. It also voted to join other Monmouth County districts in a group adfor the March 25th election. Board member Sandra Orlando reported that the Art Show cleared close to \$1,800. The money will be used for playground equipment, for small monthly class trips. and for a gift to the school. It is planned that the principal, teachers and children will have a part in deciding on the gift. The Roosevelt Teachers Association has donated two World Atlases to the school library.

(Cont'd. on Page 9)

ISSUES & DEBATE

How to decide on public expenditures

By Peter Berlinrut

Years ago I attended a council meeting in which the question arose: should the council appropriate the money required to purchase yellow rain slickers for the three police officers we then had? The sum involved was eight or nine dollars. A hot argument ensued. Tempers flared, personal antipathies of long duration broke into the open and the debate raged more than an hour. I don't recall which side won but by the time the storm subsided, nerves were frayed and a chafed truce hung in the air.

That however was not the end of fiscal discussion for the evening. It so happened that about that time a new state law required that all garbage collection vehicles be enclosed and under cover. It meant our garbage truck (we were doing our own collecting then) was illegal. Bids for a new and legal truck had been submitted at the previous meeting and the lowest figure was approximately eight thousand dollars. A Council member made a motion that this bid be accepted, it was promptly seconded and in the twinking of an eye the motion was passed unanimously. There was no discussion, no questions, no probing for details.

It struck me as a bit ludicrous: A few minutes ago the Council had been choking over a gnat of eight dollars and here they had quickly swallowed a camel of eight thousand dollars. On second thought, perhaps it wasn't so ludicrous.

ions involving the expenditure of money for something or other. They are seldom easy. The issues often balance

out as six good reasons pro and half a dozen good reasons con. I think it can be said truthfully we are not a spendthrift town. The fact that our office-holders are unpaid, the fact that the taxpaying homeowner and the official authorizing an expenditure are often one and the same, imposes a tight checkrein. Sometimes almost too tight and maybe not in the public interest.

All these notions passed through my mind last month when I read the news that our Board of Education had appropriated fifteen hundred dollars for defraying the expenses of the school principal's attending an education conference in California. I am confident the issue was inscussed fully and fairly and the majority acted for what seemed the best interests of the town.

Yet I must say I would have been opposed to this appropriation if I had been there and voting. I emphasize this is no reflection on the Board and that the point made above holds in this situation: that there can be as much good reason for as against some expenditures. I would have been opposed because fifteen hundred dollars is a substantial item of money for which there are more urgent uses in town.

Portions of our roads er, out for repair and maintenance. The Park Commission could use some mone, to remove the old and battered furniture on the picnic grounds back of the Memorial and replace it with more attractive, vandal-proof (or at least, vardal-resistant) concrete items. Also it would like to improve the appearance of some of our Common land. Also the First Aid Squad, which They felt free and qualified to de- performs a vital life-and-death serbate the expenditure of eight doll- vice for the town, could use some ars but not of eight thousand. improved equipment (it is my under-I have been present at other occas-standing). The list could be lengthened. And while fifteen hundred (Cont'd. on Page 16)

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Understanding behavior by assessing needs
Friends.

Over the last few weeks I've been talking with the sixth and seventh grade students about behavior. We have been trying to find out why people behave the way they do. There are many ways to approach this topic. In order to structure our talks so that we could all have a common frame of reference, I decided to use a fairly met) and she pushed the other child so simple scheme of need fulfillments. That is, people behave as they do so that they can fulfill certain needs.

Abraham Maslow, a psychologist, postulated that there are 5 basic needs which are important in everyone's life.

I. Physical- The need for food, water, shelter, warmth and activity.

2. Safety- The need to be safe from

3. Love- The need to be loved and to feel you belong.

4. Self-worth- The need to feel important and feel you are a person of worth.

5. Self-fulfillment- The need to become all we can become.

After going through this with the children, I began to think about the school in terms of how it helps children find ways to meet these needs .. I also began to think about the behavior we see in school and how it could be analyzed using this scheme.

The children in school express both the fulfillment of these needs as well deal with their behavior if we, as the lack of fulfillment of them. It's the adults, understand what that awfully hard, when attempting this kind of analysis, to get down to the basic need. A child completes an assignment,. hands it in to the teacher and is complimented for good work. The child beams and is cooperative and pleasant. What need was fulfilled? Certainly the child's need to feel worthy. Perhaps the child s need for self-fulfillment was also enhanced. Ah, if it were so simple...

A child is walking down the hall.

That child falls, the class disrupted, and it takes a while to restore calm .. Why did that youngster push the other one? Upon investigating we learn that the child who was pushed did well on a test that both took. The child who oushed felt threatened by the poor mark she received (need for self-worth not that she could regain some of that feeling of self-importance. In a game during gym class one youngster makes

a mistake and another yells and shouts at him. Why? Perhaps winning is critical to the child who was yelling. It is a measure of selfesteem and when loosing is possible, this important need is not being met.

A child walks through the doors at 8:20 in the morning. Someone walks by and brushes her accidentally. She lashes out with a vehemence that is not at all connected to the incident. Why? She's a grouch. Obviously not. If she's come to school feeling so tense one has to believe that some needs weren't being met at home. An argument with her parents? A problem on the way to school?

It is easier to help children behavior is about. We try. I'd like to suggest this scheme or a way to look at the behavior you see inyour children. Perhaps it will be helpful. It has been useful to me.

I hope all your needs will be fulfilled in the coming year. Happy New Year.

Lew Gantwerk

Food coop group pools public's interest

By Andrea Lakin

What it will take to set up a food co-op in Roosevelt was spelled out at a pre-liminary organization meeting held in the Borough Hall Dec. 11: hard work, time, and energy from the interested volunteers. So said Rose Murphy, organizer of the group.

Dan Obstein, co-founder of a Trenton food co-op, was the guest speaker. Obstein is a representative of the Mid-Eastern Food Cooperative, an organization that aids food-buying clubs and co-ops in the purchase and distribution of food. He recommended starting as a buying club, and expanding to a co-op as the membership grows and as government funding becomes available.

Questionnaires were handed out so that the group could analyze the kinds of items that might be purchased. Thus, distributers could be contacted and arrangements made for families to order and pick up food items.

Roosevelt residents interested in a

food co-op should fill out the form below and return it to Rose Murphy, Box 207, Roosevelt.

If a food co-op is organized in Roose-velt:

- 1. How often would you like it to operate?
- What kind of items would you like it to handle?

meat
vegetables
dairy items
paper goods
vitamins
other

- 3. Would you be willing to volunteer your time?
- 4. How much time or how often could you volunteer?
- 5. Would you shop at the co-op?

(Cont'd. from Page 6)

trip withdrawn

It was announced that the school Winter Concert would take place Thursday, Dec.20, prior to publication of this issue of the Borough Bulletin.

Board member Merle Rose announced that evening classes will start March I. The program will be mailed to all in the community. There will be no expense to the board, which has provided the use of the building.

NATON GIR GATION, INC.

Box 311 . ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY . 08555

DAVID BEININ

PHONE 609-448-1125

ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY & SCHOOL CALENDAR

January 1980

29 Tuesday, 8p.m.

1 Tuesday Happy New Year! 2 Wednesday, 8p. m. Borough Council re-organization meeting, Borough Hall 5 Saturday, 8p. m. Writer's Workshop - Play Readings, Borough Hall 6 Sunday Borough Bulletin early copy deadline to J. Dulicai 7 Monday, 8p. m. Borough Council agenda meeting, Borough Hall Deborah meeting, Borough Hall 8 Tuesday School pictures, R.P.S. 8p. m. School Board meeting, R. P.S. 9 Wednesday, 8p. m. Borough Council meeting, Borough Hall 10 Thursday, 8p.m. Borough Bulletin staff meeting, Shapiro house 15 Tuesday R.P.S. Closed - Martin Luther King Day 16 Wednesday, 7:15-8:30p.m. Bookmobile - store parking lot Borough Bulletin late copy to J. Dulicai 22 Tuesday, 12:30p.m. Early closing, R.P.S. Borough Bulletin paste-up, R.P.S. 23 Wednesday 28 Monday, 8p. m. Planning Board meeting, Borough Hall

First Aid meeting

FOOD

The apple ... of everyone's eye

By Beth Johnson

Apples are a favorite fruit for many of us. We are fortunate to live so close to a variety of orchards. Now is the time to enjoy this adaptable fruit. My Swedish relatives, who are truly imaginative about their plentiful and beloved foods, baked mashed potatoes with layers of apples or prunes. Apples seem to appeal more to my family so the following recipes use them. In the first one you may substitute prunes.

The Danish Apple Cake is a tasty autumn dessert whenever you want something hearty to top off a light meal.

Mashed Potatoes with Apples and Onions

4 large boiled potatoes

2 cups sliced apples or applesauce

butter

1/2 cup diced onion
1/3 cup chopped parsely

milk dash of salt and pepper

Mash potatoes with butter, salt, milk and pepper. Put a layer of mashed potatoes on the bottom of a well-buttered small deep casserole. Next spoon in a layer of apples or applesauce. Sprinkle with onion and parsley, and top with mashed potatoes. Bake in 350° oven 20 to 25 minutes, or until brown and crusty on top. Serves 4.

Danish Apple Cake

l egg

1/2 cup flour

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

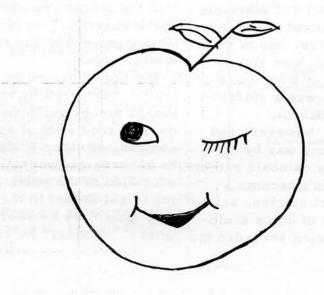
1 tsp. baking powder

2 tbsp. melted butter

l cup chopped apple

1/2 cup chopped mixed nuts (unsalted)

Beat together the egg, sugar, vanilla, and melted butter. Stir in flour, salt, and baking powder. Add chopped apple and nuts and mix well. Put into greased pie plate and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve warm and top with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Serves 4 to 6.



Jon Shahn 'pretty good to be a sculptor'

By David Herrstrom

Jonathan Shahn, sculptor of Roosevelt's only public monument, who grew up in this town and has been gone for some seventeen years, has returned to live. Convinced by high school reunions that people of small towns are divided into those who stay and those who leave, I asked Jon, one of many from Roosevelt who have left for a number of years and later returned, why he had come back. I expected clarification of a profound sociological question, only to be told that returning to Roosevelt was purely a matter of convenience. Contemplating a return to the States, as Jon puts it, "how do you choose to settle in Albany or East Windsor or Plainfield?" In his life the "big determining element is inertia," as he admits, and he does not romanticize Roosevelt. He simply "decides it's special and then it is." So much for Jon Shahn as a representative of those who left and subsequently returned.

In fact, Jon quietly avoids being a representative of anything. Certainly a pilgrimage to Rome would seem to be requisite for any sculptor. Here, afterall, is more sculpture good and bad, genuine and fake, original and slavishly imitative, than almost anywhere else in the world. And, of course, one of the values of this trip for Jon was simply the opportunity to "look at a lot more sculpture" than when he was a student at the Boston Museum School.

He was not overawed, however, and if he was influenced in any way by the art around him it was by osmosis rather than revelation. He didn't become a part of the obligatory art circles, actively seek out the company of other sculptors, or court the adulation accorded the

professor and artist in Italy. Apparently, when in Rome he refused, not out of obstinancy but out of an inertia necessary for his survival, to do what the Romans do.

His stay was valuable because in Rome "scupture was a more normal activity" than in the U.S., where it was "considered bizarre." The sculptor by extension, like the poet in Ireland or Spain, was believed to be engaged in an occupation at least as useful as soccer and as respectable as bartending. Returning to the States, however, Jon finds it "pretty good to be a sculptor." It used to be rare, but now, as he points out, every family seems to have at least one aspiring sculptor.

Part of this is due to a myth he mocks, that of the "sensitive but virile" artist. In the past if the director of a movie, for example, needed to portray a person given to both introspection and action, he would turn to the stereotype of the architect as hero. Soon, Jon predicts, we'll see the "sculptor hero." In selfmockery he hefts a bronze and invites me to follow suit. I'm duly impressed at the weight of a relatively small piece. Although Jon looks the part of the village smithy, with his compact frame, he defies the stereotype even in a bronze "Self-Portrait," making his arms somewhat thinner than his chest and shoulders would suggest.

Making sculpture in Rome was, ironically, hampered by insufficient room, though pieces got done anyway. If he doesn't need a lot of space, then, or the company of other sculptors, whose talk he regards as generally boring, or the adoration of the public, I asked, expecting to get at last to the heart of the matter, what does he need to carry on his work? "Money," he replies without

(Cont'd. on Fage 13)

(Cont'd. from Page 12)

sculptor'

hesitation. No surprise, considering that a modest piece can cost over \$500 to cast in bronze, to say nothing of more ambitious works, which can run to thousands of dollars.

This is also an understandable cause of inertia. One reason he hates to move is that the cost of transporting even small pieces, which have to be specially crated by art-movers, can be prohibitively expensive. Large pieces can only be handled by forklifts. Being a sculptor is a decidedly physical activity demanding the capital of a gambling house. Jon jokes about leaving works all over the country as a consequence, whereever he's been, in the basements and attics of assorted friends and acquaintances. "I can't help," he says in mock chagrin, "but leave a trail of stuff behind me. " This fact forces him to become an "archeologist" of his own work, as he describes it. Judging by the unpacked boxes clogging his Roosevelt house and scattering his studio, he'll be excavating for some time.

Meanwhile, Jon Shahn collects light. Money may be the root of his work but light is its air. A painter, yes, but a sculptor collect light? Another pet notion about the sculptor bites the dust. Everywhere we went, Jon was concerned about finding the right light, bits of direct sun here, fragments of the morning sun there. Sculpture is made only as it reveals itself in light. This room is too dark. This side of the studio catches the sun at the wrong time. Sculpture lives on light. The way it reflects and refracts light is part of its reason for existence. One problem, in fact, with the head of F.D.R. is that it's mostly in the dark, though as a work Jon still judges it after 18 years to be a "respectable" piece, modestly "serviceable."

That sculptors fashion "serviceable" objects, happily shatters the romantic notion of the demon-driven, soul-racked artist. As a result, Jon's works do not pretend to be anything other than sculpture, emphasized by the fact that many of them include in their final bronzed form the armature with its base, originally made out of wood, on which the clay model was shaped. The sculptor is an artisan engaged in an activity no less and no more important than that of the carpenter or machinist, making useful things. What is the use, you ask, of a thick-lipped, skew-eyed bald head on its elongated neck, resembling nothing so much as a lollipop on its stick? It serves, of course, the rather ordinary purpose of prodding us into laughter, until we're made uncomfortable by that oracular, flaring eye, raising painful, everyday questions.

Jon doesn't go into raptures about his medium in answer to my naively expectant questions, consequently, insisting simply that "clay is clay." There are differences, of course, in working with different materials, but these differences are just there; they must be considered, as the carpenter considers those between oak and pine. Of wood as a sculptural material, Jon observes, it "can't be put back on after you take it away," whereas clay can. Also wood is slow; clay changes shape faster.

With wood and stone, furthermore, you have to "imagine the form" inside, and one "must work towards it all the time." As a result, stone "requires a logical, organized mind." Once Jon is moving he wants to stay that way, true to this inertia, and so prefers clay, easily and quickly worked. "My problem," he boasts, "is I change my mind." Thus, even when he works with wood, he tends to build it up with pieces by a process of accretion, rather than begin with a huge (Cont'd. on Page 14)

(Cont'd. from Page 13)

sculptor'

block and proceed by cutting away unnecessary material, freeing some inner form.

The abstract form, the generally representative, the myth or stereotype, in short, doesn't appeal to Jon. What interests him is not an idea but the tangible clay, a proper starting point. He is concerned about the feel and look of light in the place he works, not about the theory of the relation of sculpture and light. He collects it where he can find it, as a practical matter. He doesn't care about the question of medium in general, only clay in particular.

For the same reason, Jon evades questions about influences and other sculpture, preferring to show me his works, including a huge seated wood figure, which reminds me of an Etruscan statue. But I refrain from the comparison, knowing it would be of only peripheral interest. He wants to do "public" monumental works, but is bored by questions about politics and art, or about the relation of his teaching to his art. He is animated, instead, when he explains in detail precisely how he went about enlarging the head of F.D.R. to five times the size of its clay model, a work of art in itself. Clearly and enthusiastically he explains a method of transference by grid with plumbline and rule that the Egyptians knew, one of the most serviceable techniques of a "serviceable" art, served by a most unpretentious

Printmaking Council elects 2 Rooseveltians

Ine Printmaking Council of New Jerse, recently elected two moosevelt residents to its poard of directors. They are Stefan Martin and Bernarda Bryson Snann.

Ine council also recently opened the abors to its new building, the malph r. meeve cultural Center located in Long Branch, New Jersey.

rund raising was assisted by a limited-edition poster of a Ben Snahn drawing donated by Mrs. Shann. Copies of this poster were available at the moosevelt P.T.A. Art rair.

The Printmaking Council was organized in 1974 with the advice and
support of professional persons in
New Jersey, including moosevelt arttist Jacob Landau. Five grants received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and one from the
National Endowment for the Arts,
have made programs available to artists, educators, students, communities and businesses.

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Two one-act plays, Laughing String and Close Relations, will be presented at the Borough Hall on Saturday Jan.5, at 3:00 P. M. Sponsored by the Senior Citizens and writer's Committee, the plays will be performed by Judith Goetzman and Leo Libove. The works of playwright and director Leslie Weiner have appeared both on and off Broadway.



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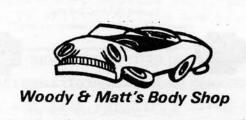
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Poetry-jazz evening: that's entertainment

ic nappened when Laurie Altman, non fulloss and David Herrstrom joined. Forces on Dec.8 at the Borough Hall.

The nour long program of poetry and jazz was sponsored o, the borough Council and was sheer entertainment. Original poems of non and David were accompanied of Laurie on the infamous Borough piano, sans 10 notes. Laurie had to select very carefully from among pieces in his recently published book entitled Piano Poems his "Song for Olivier", composed during his son's recent hospitalization was extremely expressive.

Both David and Ron made mental pictures appear with their words, each poem celebrating jet another unique thought. Dozens of friends crowded the borough hall for this repeat performance, each nopeful that this event be just another in a long series.

(Cont'd. from Page 7)

expenditures

dollars can't be stretched to pay for everthing, it could pay for a few of the forementioned items.

I realize that the Board of Education operates on a stated appropiation and is empowered to spend its money in whatever way it believes will further the education of our children. However, its main revenue comes from the same source as other revenues needed to run the affairs of the town: real estate taxes.

Let me also state I am not questioning the value of education conferences. While some may serve mainly as junkets and a welcome relief from the classroom grind, others stimulate thought and disseminate understanding relevant to better education. And I am sure our principal (whom I hold in high esteem) would make the most of whatever the conference has to offer. At the same

time, if the work sessions bring out something useful in running a small school district, it is almost foregone there would be a transcription of what was said and it would be available for a modest fee

would be available for a modest fee. Whatever the case, I have brought the matter up not to stir controversy or start a round of useless recriminations. All I would like to see emerge is a readiness to see a situation like this in its most dispassionate perspective and decided by the criterion of what is really best for the town.

Finally, fifteen hundred dollars isn't going to drive us into fiscal bankruptcy and send us in tears to the federal government (like sad New York) begging for rescue. And it is just possible that if Mr. Gantwerk comes back with fresh, helpful ideas about our school, the benefits will outweigh the cost solidly.

POSTSCRIPT

Since the above was written and submitted to the Editor I have learned that our Board of Education has

reversed its earlier stand and cancelled the appropriation in question. This was done entirely on its
own initiative and my article had
nothing to do with it. I think congradulations are in order. I repeat
that no criticism of the Board was
inteded in the above. And I think my
statement that we are not a spendthrift town, is vindicated.

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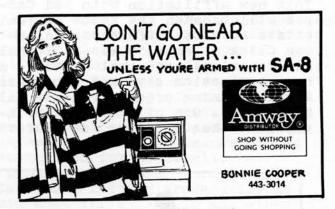
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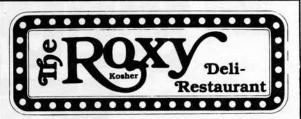
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