

The Great Depression 1932

as seen through the pages of the [Daily Record](#) (Morristown, NJ)

“A new office was opened this morning, by the Morris County Emergency Committee... [to] serve applicants...who wish employment as stenographers, bookkeepers, sales people, furnace men, truck drivers, etc.” (January 1, 1932, p.1)

The depression was causing a shift “in the average American’s viewpoint on political theories,” declared an editorial on Jan. 5, 1932, p.8. “In the years of prosperity we went...for the policy of helping the man at the bottom by boosting the man at the top. We felt that the best way to provide a reasonable amount of happiness, leisure and contentment for the mass of the people was to give business and finance a free hand. If they prospered greatly, the rest of us would prosper at least a little....Lately the opposite theory has been coming into his own again....The pendulum is swinging.....It...means that our political life is in the process of getting shaken down to a more healthy and logical basis. In any two-party system of popular government the respective parties ought to stand at opposite poles in this matter. There should be a conservative party and a liberal party. In no other way can a democracy function as it should.”

Boonton National Bank and The Trust Company both had healthy financial conditions, according to an article on Jan. 8, 1932, p.11. The article went on to list the assets and liabilities of both institutions. And on Jan. 13, 1932, p.1, an article reports “Banks in Morristown, Madison and Whippany and local building and loan associations are presenting their annual statements and conditions in a special financial section which is part of tonight’s issue of The Record....it is gratifying to see the local banks advertising that they are in excellent condition....examiners complimented the local banking officials on their sound business practises.”

“Their Annual Outing” is the caption of a Percy Crosby editorial cartoon on Jan. 11, 1932, p. 14: not a week at the shore, but a family in rags, dispossessed from their rental apartment, surrounded by their bits of furniture.

The American Legion, Post 59, was trying hard to help such people in need, collecting fresh and canned food through donations and benefits. “...since the organization has started work, 3,658 quarts of milk, 410 loaves of bread and a quantity of potatoes have been given out.” (Jan. 12, 1932, p.1) An article on Jan. 16, 1932, p.1 added that the American Legion also collected “100 pounds of bacon, 500 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of sugar...”

“Poverty dances” had been a form of entertainment since at least the 1890’s. “Over 150 persons, dressed in old clothing, attended” a poverty dance held by the Women’s Democratic Organization of Morris County. “Prizes for the shabbiest clothing were awarded....A quotation ...reading, ”Poverty is no disgrace but it is damn inconvenient”, caused much laughter.” (Jan. 15, 1932, p.6)

Unemployment relief did not always go smoothly. “Claims that some of the men who registered early in the winter as being unemployed had not been given even part time work were presented to the Board of Aldermen....There was \$200 a week being paid for groceries, coal and other expenses.... formerly orders were given on various grocers but it was found the people were

putting cigarettes, toilet paper and other articles on their lists so this plan was discontinued. One woman was getting groceries and her husband was on the payroll....” (Jan. 16, 1932, p.1)

Improvements seem to have been made by the next Board of Aldermen meeting. More men were being employed part time. “...158 are employed by the town and 60 by the county. The men are working in shifts, week on and week off, so that all may have some income.....5,290 quarts of milk had been donated by Hipson and O’Dowd Companies ...1049 loaves given [by] the American Stores, Dugans, Verilli, Mischiara, Hearne and local stores....235 families have been given wood and \$25.79 has been spent for coal.” (Jan. 23, 1932, p.1)

The Morristown Library was being heavily used. “More leisure has been a factor...also in the use of the Library as a Reading Room. The greatest increase in reading has been in fiction. In the adult department there was a gain in circulation in every class of literature except religion.” “The Library had the almost universal experience of public libraries during 1931: increased demands for books and lessened funds for their purchase.” (Jan. 25, 1932, p.1)

Religious leaders of many denominations “have signified their willingness to cooperate in the task of providing jobs for the unemployed or direct relief for those who are in need but cannot work.” Representatives of Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Episcopalians were photographed at a conference in Newark. (Jan. 25, 1932, p.9)

Mendham Borough was experiencing a large increase of the unemployed, and the town was having great difficulty in helping them. “A month ago there were 46 registered in Mendham for unemployment relief. Now there are 63.” The borough could only employ “12 to 14 men each week on its roads...each man would have an opportunity to work only one week out of four... That would not support a man and family.” Householders were urged to create jobs for mechanics, carpenters, masons, painters and plumbers, but they “cannot afford to pay full union wages”. The Director of Relief “has been visited by the local representatives of two labor unions who have told him plainly that if any of their members, even in this emergency, work for less than full union wages and are caught doing so, that they will be fined or expelled from their unions”, and the Director “does not feel justified in deliberately exposing any man to fine or expulsion by sending him out to work at under-wages...” “Unless there are fairy god-mothers in the offing or some other equally unexpected and unnatural source of succor, some folks in Mendham are going to experience real suffering before the winter is over.” (Jan. 27, 1932, p.1)

American Legion Post No. 59 was continuing its good works with “a city-wide drive in the town for canned goods, unneeded clothes and shoes.” “The call from the Legion comes to the people of Morristown...”You helped the boys when they were ‘Over There’. Now help them to help your own people ‘Over Here’. “ (Jan. 27, 1932, p.1)

Capitol Men’s Shop at 48 Speedwell Avenue/Schwartz Bros Army & Navy Store at 60 Speedwell Ave., Morristown announced its bankruptcy: “MUST BE FULLY WIPED OUT AT ONCE”. (Jan. 27, 1932, p.3)

“Freeholder William C. Spargo, who is President of the New Jersey Federation of Farm Boards ...declared that prosperous agriculture is the way out of depression. Bringing back the buying power to the farmers...” “He particularly urged ...boosting New Jersey grown products. These

goods should be well graded in a quality pack carrying the New Jersey label..." (Jan. 28, 1932, p. 1)

A form appeared in the January 29, 1932 newspaper on p.11: "Help the Local Unemployment Situation". After the lines to be filled in with Rate of Pay, Place of Work, Class of Work, I.D. of person offering work, the form states "Your cooperation is urged. Give work instead of money", then lists a large number of tasks that could be done by day laborers, such as "shovel snow... repaint stove...make shelves...putty up loose windows...oil washing machine".

The Japanese invasion of China and the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid now displaced news and editorials on unemployment.

The Morris County Welfare Board January report to the Board of Chosen Freeholders appears in the Feb. 10, 1932 issue, p.5. This is a detailed description of the various responsibilities of the County Welfare Board, the Emergency Unemployment Laws applying to the municipalities, the State Board of Guardians and the Morris County Children's Home, regarding who qualified for the services and what the cost was per person. "The County Welfare Board is charged by law with the duty of administering temporary relief, which it charges back to each municipality...But at the present time and at least until June 1st, 1932, there is already in existence an organization for this purpose in each municipality, functioning under the Emergency Unemployment Laws. It would be foolish for the County Welfare Board to duplicate the work of this organization, especially as under the Unemployment Laws, after each municipality has expended the same amount of money as it spent on poor relief in 1929, it will be repaid 40 per cent of the balance by the state; whereas, if its poor relief were administered by the County Welfare Board the total amount spent would have to be paid by the municipality." "Morris County does not want to have a case similar to that reported in another county where an elderly man and his wife turned on the gas because they had not \$16.00 with which to pay their landlord's bill."

An editorial on Feb. 16, 1932, p.4 promoted a plan whereby neighbors chip in \$1 per week, for a total of \$10 a week, to provide one worthy unemployed head of household laborer with 10 weeks of work at 50¢ per hour—"the 'man-a-block' movement". "City after city," the editorial claims, "has tried this plan and found it good. It is, on the whole, a cheaper method of furnishing relief than the direct-charity method; it preserves the self-respect of the man who is being helped...." "...giving a man a chance to help himself" was far preferable to "giving food and rent money to the jobless family man [which is] a miserable makeshift..."

The editorial cartoon on February 20, 1932, p.4 depicted, in a direct reference to Morristown's Revolutionary War history, General Washington encouraging a discouraged Uncle Sam with the words "Remember, the darkest hours come before the dawn."

"Did You Ever Stop to Think?" was a regular feature on the editorial page. On February 26, 1932, p.4 the subject was "confidence in the soundness of American business." Do not withdraw your money and hoard it, exhorted the writer. This only restricts credit. "The individual, by placing his money on deposit with the banks or by making good, sound investments, will be doing his part to restore this country and himself to prosperity." But why should the public have faith in our financial institutions? Because, said the columnist, "The Federal Government, by the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, has practically guaranteed the stability of our nations' credit structure."

The “Make A Job” Committee for Morristown, Morris Township, and Morris Plains planned its canvassing campaign to solicit hours of work from businesses and homeowners. “The cooperation of every citizen of Morristown will be needed to provide work for a thousand men and women from now until June 1st, which totals 14,000 weeks work.” “The American Legion Auxiliary sent word...that it would pledge its assistance in such work as will be necessary to make a job campaign a success.” (Feb. 27, 1932, p.1) Morristown Mayor Clyde Potts’s endorsement of the “Make-a-Job” drive appeared at the top of page 1 on March 1, 1932.

In a box below the previous article was a statement from the United Action For Employment Headquarters in New York City. “In this movement Americans are going back to the old faith—doing things for themselves. That, after all, is the quickest and best way for doing nearly all things.” Those who know how to help themselves do not lean on the state. Those who earn wages do not demand doles.” (Feb. 27, 1932, p.1)

The DOLE: “The word is not as frightening as it was; in another year it will be even less so..... the dole can sap manhood of its self-reliance and energy. But there is only one way of avoiding the dole—to rearrange industry so that there will always be work for an honest, capable and reliable workman,” stated an editorial on Feb. 29, 1932, p.4. “William John Cooper, United States commissioner of education, pointed out...’Many factories will not employ a man past 45. Shelving the aged means an old age pension system. Periodic unemployment means unemployment insurance, or doles, or something worse.’ “

Preparation for the Make-a-Job Campaign continued, with “approximately 25 heads of the various organizations who are back of the...campaign, who met in Day’s Restaurant at 8:00 last night to get the details of the Campaign.” “One of the individuals present remarked, ‘We who have positions can’t possibly imagine the hardship we would be facing if without any reserve of any kind, we suddenly found ourself competing for a job with the thousands of unemployed in the Metropolitan area.’ “ Those thousands included 1,040 registered as unemployed in Morristown, Morris Township, and Morris Plains alone: 713 men and 327 females. (March 2, 1932, p.1)

Misery was global. A photograph showed “the four-day march of jobless men and women from Puebla, Mexico, to Mexico City” being attacked by mounted police. “But later, orders were issued to allow the demonstrators to enter the city and present their pleas for government relief.” (March 2, 1932, p.5)

An editorial on March 4, 1932, p.6 informs us that “The United States Senate Banking and Currency Committee is to take up...the formal inquiry into ‘the methods and principles, cause and effect, use and abuse of Stock Exchange machinery for buying and selling on credit.’ If this investigation is conducted impartially and fairly by experts it will probably do a lot of good....”

“Notices have been posted at the Atlas Powder Company plant at Landing that the plant will close indefinitely soon. The plant is one of the oldest of its kind in the state, being in operation for nearly fifty years. Lack of business is given as the reason....About sixty are employed at the plant at the present time.” Explosives were the product made. (March 4,1932, p.9)

Another article on March 4, 1932, p.9 profiled two men who were instrumental in the “gigantic Reconstruction Finance Corporation which is now being organized in Washington...just authorized by Congress.” One was “Melvin A. Traylor, president of the First National Bank of

Chicago who was the first to visualize and propose that the Reconstruction Corporation ...be authorized to make loans to closed banks as well as to financial institutions...[to] release substantial amounts of money to depositors whose funds had been 'frozen' by the failure of such banks."

The finishing touches were being put on the "Make-a-Job" campaign. "About thirty Boy Scouts will distribute this afternoon some five thousand folders to all the homes in Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains....Window cards have been distributed....An appeal is being made to every man and woman in Morristown and vicinity, who is making or has an income, to give every hour of work possible. There is no question that most people will have to make some sacrifice in order to put additional people to work.....All of the churches have been asked to devote at least part of one of their sermons tomorrow in explaining the "Make-A-Job" campaign..." (March 5, 1932, p.1)

"Additional gifts to the Unemployment Relief Fund from town employees were reported at the Board of Aldermen meeting....In all, \$205 was received from the streets, building, sewer, engineering and fire departments.....The policemen had previously given. During the past month there were 37 new placements in jobs and in all 243 are working part time on 'made' jobs..." (March 5, 1932, p.1)

The Board of Freeholders met "for the purpose of passing a resolution providing for additional unemployment relief work on the basis that additional funds are available from the state.... although it is not certain it will be secured. The resolution provides for an appropriation of \$50,958 for 13,400 days of labor...widening, grading, draining" roadwork. (March 5, 1932, p.1)

At the bottom of page 1 on March 5, 1932, the newspaper boxed another statement from the United Action For Employment. "Here is a WAR AGAINST DEPRESSION that is WINNING ...it is everybody's campaign....We are going back to a war basis for a great peacetime pursuit....ARE YOU IN THIS CAMPAIGN?...This WAR AGAINST DEPRESSION IS EVERYBODY'S WAR..."

Scam artist "Albert W. Benham, whose flyer in high finance earned him the sobriquet of "Fifty Per Cent" Benham, is shown...with his attorney.... Benham went on trial charged with operating a confidence game. Benham gained fame throughout northern Illinois as a financial wizard when he paid 10 to 50 per center dividends on money entrusted to him, but announced that he was bankrupt when suspicious depositors demanded return of the money." (March 5, 1932, p.2)

An editorial on March 7, 1932, p.4 quoted from an analysis of unemployment. "A writer in the current Magazine of Wall Street quotes figures compiled by the American Federation of Labor which show that there is in the United States today enough work to employ every worker in the nation – for 35 hours a week.....The normal working week in most industries is 48 hours, scaling down to 44 in many cases." "if a seven-hour day and a five day week were suddenly installed in every industry, unemployment would literally vanish." "But...the writer...points out: 'Too small a proportion of the earning of 1919-1929 went into consumption. Too large a proportion went to swell the unspendable incomes of a minority of machine owners. Too much was ploughed back into additional capital investments to swell producing facilities which had already run beyond the consuming abilities of the mass population.' "

How to get work, then? The Master Plumbers and Tinnners Association posted a notice on p. 1, March 8, 1932 of the newspaper: "20% REDUCTION IN LABOR CHARGES...for Plumbers, Steamfitters, Tinnners and Helpers." A front-page article on March 31, 1932 reported union-approved wage cuts for carpenters, painters, and bricklayers as well as the plumbers. Only the electricians maintained their previous wage of \$13.20 a day. Carpenters dropped \$2 to \$10 a day; plumbers' wages were cut 20%; painters lost \$3 a day, for a \$9 a day wage; and bricklayers were also cut \$2.

Short-selling: good or bad for the stock market? This was an issue before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee (see editorial on March 4, 1932). "The administration at Washington wants the right restricted; officials of the New York Stock Exchange oppose this plan." The editorial on March 8, 1932, p.4 then proceeds to explain short-selling, ending, "The short-seller...is interested in seeing prices decline. He thrives on calamity. Frequently, when he sells in large enough quantities, he brings about the very decline that he is looking for. Stock market experts insist that this custom...gives the market a needed flexibility....Unless a very well-reasoned defense can be set up, the general public will probably agree that a curb is needed."

By March 8, "A total of about 1500 hours work was reported...at the headquarters at 309 Park Square Building" in the "Make-A-Job" campaign, and the canvassing was continuing. (March 9, 1932, p.1) After that slow start, 11,000 hours had been pledged by the next day. The newspaper compared the Liberty Bond drive during the war to the current effort, "substituting the words, "Employ People Until It Hurts" instead of "Give Until It Hurts"." (March 10, 1932, p.1) And by the following day, 13,865 hours of work had been pledged. But that was still less than 10% of the goal of 360,00 hours. (March 11, 1932, p.1)

Meanwhile, in Dearborn, Michigan, events had gotten out of hand. Dramatic photographs were captioned, "Police in full flight before the mob of several hundred unemployed Communists who attacked the Ford plant....Top picture shows police running for the protection of barricades about the plant after failing to check the attack....Three mobsters were slain and a score were wounded." (March 9, 1932, p.2) On March 12, 1932, p.4 The Daily Record responded with an editorial that was very sympathetic to the rioters. "...the clash between police and unemployed men at the gates of the Ford plant...proves that we have not yet learned how to deal with desperate men who cannot get jobs. There were Communist agitators in the mob....But it is simply idiotic to suppose that a majority of the 3000 men who marched...went out with any idea of provoking violence....They may have some of those ideas now, but it is very doubtful that they had been before the fight...they wanted jobs...But organized society had no way of meeting them but by using force. It killed four of them, wounded 15 or 20 more and threw 15 into jail....It made a lot of those 3000 permanently bitter. It gave the Communist organizers new fuel....It enormously emphasized the sad fact that organized society sometimes seems a lot readier to hit jobless men over the head than it is to keep them from going hungry."

Lower salary scales, reduction in wages, wage deflation: white collar workers in Morris County were beginning to feel the effects. In Dover, "The Teachers' Committee reported to the Board of Education...urging that all new teachers be employed on a lower base minimum the reduction being \$100 to the new teachers. The proposed new scale will be \$1100 instead of \$1200 for teachers in the first four grades; in the next three grades, \$1150; the grammar school \$1200 and high school, \$1300." (March 9, 1932, p.11)

Rodney Dutcher, in his Daily Washington Letter published on March 11, 1932, p.6, tackled the question “Why doesn’t the farmer stop complaining?” He then details the dramatic price drops for farm products, as well as drought, but increased prices for products that farmers must buy; it was a wonder any farmer managed to stay in business. For instance, in September 1931, “The general prospect for farm markets and prices is anything but reassuring...Gross income (for the 1930-31 season) shrank 22 per cent under the previous year, being \$9,300,000,000 as compared with \$11,900,000,000.”

The “Make-A-Job” campaign resulted in 20,337 hours of work being pledged by 444 families, according to the article on March 14,1932, p.1. This was far below the stated goal of 360,000 hours.

“The Denville Public School auditorium was filled to capacity last evening at the presentation of an entertainment which was held under the auspices of the Denville Republican Club for the benefit of the Township’s Unemployed and for the Soup Fund for the Denville School children. Featuring...were nine numbers by Miss Bernice Guterl of Morristown and Denville and members of her dancing class...” (March 16, 1932, p.1)

“...one of the first signs of returning prosperity”, captioned a photograph of a ship completely loaded with Campbell’s soup ready to set sail for the Pacific coast via the Panama Canal, because “records show that large movements of food...is regarded by authorities as proof positive that business is now definitely moving in its upward swing...” (March 16, 1932, p.5)

Silk hosiery workers were seeing no such prosperity. “Over 500 employees of the Gotham Silk Hosiery Col, Inc. with a plant situated here in Dover, will be thrown out of employment for three weeks tonight as a result of an order closing the plant.” (March 17, 1932, p.1)

What are the psychological effects of being on the dole? “From reports of some 900 social workers and public health nurses...the Welfare Council of New York city ...released a report studying the effect of unemployment on the ‘new poor’.” Whether local charity or from the federal government, “One kind of dole, evidently, is just as bad as another...It is tragic that people have to ask for help; inevitable, when they do, that some of them will lose their self-reliance and their energy,” concluded the Daily Record. (editorial, March 21, 1932, p.4)

“Morris County has been granted an additional \$25,000 for emergency relief work from the State Emergency Relief Committee, it was announced...yesterday....The extra appropriation, every cent of which will be spent for labor, was made possible through the inability of some other counties to use their allotments...the County accepted only men...found by... municipalities to be out of work.” (March 24, 1932, p.1)

“Morris County is in good financial condition...., director Stephen C. Griffith declared at the meeting of the Board of Freeholders....County Treasurer Fletcher Fritts commented first on the strong position of the county financially, and how the banks had been willing to co-operate in any financial project. The position of Morris County was so good that other counties had appealed to it to lend its aid in getting them loans.” But to maintain that strong position, “there is the need of the most rigid economy in all departments...” (March 24, 1932, p.1)

A chart depicting the “Purchasing Power of the Retail Dollar” proved that the cost of living had dropped; the dollar bought \$1.25 of goods in 1932 but only 84¢ worth in 1920, and was at par in 1929. (March 28, 1932, p.9)

Provision was being made for the elderly who could not support themselves, under the state law providing for Old Age Pensions. To qualify, applicants had to meet strict requirements. "In addition to having attained the age of 70 years, applicants must be unable to maintain themselves. They must not possess real or personal property in excess of \$3,000, and they must not have made a transfer of property for the purpose of qualifying for the pension. Their children, grand-children, wife or husband must show that they are unable to support the aged persons. They must not be in need of continual institutional care...and they must never have been convicted of a felony or high misdemeanour.... Applicants must be citizens of the United States, residents of New Jersey and domiciled in this state for the last 15 years. ...applicants must have resided in New Jersey for the last 5 years, during which period they have not been out of the state for an aggregate of more than one year. They must have lived in Morris County continuously for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application....All statements in the application shall be verified under oath by the applicant...." Relief would amount to no more than one dollar a day, and probably less. Applications were to be made to the County Welfare Board. (March 30, 1932, p.1)

Not very many people were investing in stocks, an editorial reported on April 2, 1932, p.4. "Two years ago during the height of the bull market there was so much interest in stocks here that three branch offices of Stock Exchange firms were supported and two tickers blazed for their prices. Now it is no longer profitable to run one ticker", and the remaining stock ticker closed the previous Thursday. "With no ticker in town...it seemed as if the Record would have to discontinue its early afternoon prices....However, arrangements were made with its New York news distributing agency whereby the prices will be continued daily..."

Teachers were having to wait to be paid "in many communities throughout the country", and now it was happening in East Hanover Township. "At a recent meeting of the East Hanover Board of Education it was decided not to make any motions to pay bills for the month of April on account of low funds....If the teachers are not held up any more than a few weeks for their money they may count themselves lucky for in many places they have not been paid for many months..." (editorial, April 7, 1932, p.6)

The syndicated Daily Washington Letter on April 7, 1932, p.6 was devoted to the subject of federal deposit insurance. " ' I have been amazed at the overwhelming demand for it from all parts of the country,' says Congressman Henry Bascom Steagall of Alabama, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee." "Most bankers are believed to oppose deposit insurance, although Steagall says many bankers in small and medium-sized cities are at last favoring it." A "guarantee" law worked in Nebraska for 17 years. "Nebraska's progressive Democrat, Congressman Edgar Howard" stated, " 'A state administration criminalized that good law until the people lost faith in it. But for 17 successful years it remained free ...of the touch of those in official power who finally killed it. I hope that soon all national banks will be made so safe and secure by our action that their depositors will be as free from fear as were the depositors of our state during those 17 years.'"

"Senate Bill No. 77, known as the Building and Loan liquidity bill...was defeated in the Senate some time ago". "representatives of the twenty-nine Morris County building and loan associations" vociferously opposed the bill. "The bill proposes to make all building and loan associations contribute to a general "pool" in order to avert a disaster in many large associations. The latter, according to Senator Young [of Morris County], have expended their money foolishly

and without regard to sound investment. This reckless expenditure of funds has resulted in many of the large building and loan associations going almost broke. The bill proposes that the smaller associations save a bad situation by contributing to the uplift of their larger fellow associations.” Not surprisingly, the more prudently run smaller companies did not care to subsidize their larger competitors. The bill was voted down 99 to 2. (April 8, 1932, p.1)

“the proposed reduction in the wages of federal employees” would affect “2000 employees of Picatinny Arsenal,” a national organizer for the Federation of Federal Employees stated. “Such a move would have a demoralizing effect on local business conditions.” He urged local business people to contact their local Representatives to defeat the initiative because it was unfair to the “highly trained and experienced workers”, and would seriously impact the “purchasing power of the individual.” (April 8, 1932, p.1)

Trickle-down economics was the subject of an editorial on April 12, 1932, p.4. “are those who have the most to pay the most, or is it better to let them off lightly on the theory that their increased prosperity will trickle way down and do something for the ordinary citizens underneath?... Through recent years we have been assured over and over again, that the welfare of all of us is best promoted by seeing to it that the very rich have a free hand....This, we were told, meant better times for all of us....The question...is whether that doctrine is still a valid one. A very large section of the country, evidently, thinks that it isn't. Its belief found reflection in the crushing defeat which the House gave the sales tax proposal, and in the “soak the rich” provisions of the new revenue bill. It may be that the ordinary citizen has decided that the proof of a pudding is in the eating of it, and that since ten solid years of coddling the rich have finally landed us just where we are now, a change in policy is advisable.”

Moral issues of the depression were discussed in an editorial on April 13, 1932, p.6. “Dr. William Oxley Thompson, president emeritus of Ohio State University, told an audience of college men the other day that the real issues facing the country today are not economic but moral....It is easy to be skeptical about that statement....yet...there is a whole lot of truth in it. We are reaping... that which we sowed during the decade following the Armistice; and we did the sowing with both eyes fixed on the main chance, with economic issues uppermost in our minds, with all moral issues utterly forgotten—and look what it brought us!... Productions, sales, profits---these became ends in themselves....That attitude, inevitably, leads to a blind tumble into a ditch.”

Dover had been commended by President Hoover for making town employees of all of its unemployed. (Nov. 14, 1930) Now, “Mayor John Roach has called a number of meetings...regarding the unemployment situation in the Town of Dover....up to this time the Town itself has been endeavoring to supply work for the unemployed. However, now it is deemed necessary that other organizations co-operate with the Town regarding this...” (April 15, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on April 15, 1932, p.6 reported that “The Morristown School, founded in 1898, is having the same troubles that so many are having. It has sufficient assets on its books to meet all debts but the slowness of realization puts it in a precarious position and handicaps its continuance.”

New Jersey's most pressing problem? “How to raise \$12,000,000 for unemployment relief during the twelve months following July 1... which Governor Moore and legislative leaders are

scheduled to discussChester I. Barnard, State Director of Unemployment Relief, estimates that the present balance of some \$4,800,000 of the state's share of the present fund will be exhausted by the first of July...." (April 18, 1932, p.1)

The New Jersey state legislature determined to introduce a bill "providing for a two cents a gallon additional gas tax to raise \$1,000,000 a month... imposed for six months...Director Barnard's recommendation for direct emergency relief by distribution of food and necessities, to replace the present of providing part-time employment financed by relief funds, was also approved by the committee..." (April 21, 1932, p.1) The Motor Vehicle Commissioner and the president of New Jersey A.A.A. were opposed to the gasoline tax increase. (April 23, 1932, p.1) On May 7, 1932, p.4 an editorial came out against the gas tax. "There are better methods than the proposed gasoline tax increase and it is up to our legislators to find it."

Were people starving? Thirty five governors around the country said no. The Daily Record differed with those governors in an editorial on April 19, 1932, p.4. "The Welfare Council of New York City publishes a magazine called "Better Times". In its current issue there is an article by Eleanor Flexner, who investigated conditions...During the year 1931, four New York hospitals reported 95 cases of starvation. These resulted in 20 deaths.....it is worth while to see just what the hospitals call starvation. Going on miserably insufficient rations is not called starvation....If he lands in a hospital or a welfare agency he will be written down as a sufferer from malnutritionStarvation means that a person gets nothing at all to eat—not a dry crust, or a cup of weak tea. And during the past year 95 persons in just that fix were taken to New York hospitals, and 20 of them died. The percentage is microscopic, of course. But the fact is there. It completely knocks out that pitiful boast that "there is no starvation in the United States." Remember it, the next time you hear that boast voiced." No cases of starvation had been reported in Morris County.

The editorial cartoon on April 19, 1932, p.4 depicted every group from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Farm Board, veterans, railroads, and waterways, with their begging cups reaching out to Uncle Sam. There on the side stood the little man saying "But where do I come in?"

As reported on April 23, 1932, p.1, "Chester I. Barnard, director of the new Jersey State Emergency Relief Administration, today declared the unemployment situation to be most desperate....: There are about 600,000 destitute persons in the state....Private charities and municipalities are unable to finance relief....Relief by creating employment is impractical. Twenty million dollars...must be raised if disaster is to be averted..."

We are fed up with "the Napoleons of Business", editorialized the newspaper on April 23, 1932, p.4. "Too many folks have had experience of shipwreck under its guidance....When he promises wealth, they ask searching questions....The business hero of today is...the faithful and sure leader...whose store or factory or bank is working and paying 100 cents on the dollar every day."

The repeal of Prohibition was constantly being discussed, particularly as the legalization of beer and hard liquor would allow it to be taxed. Hence, the editorial cartoon on April 27, 1932, p.4 depicting the suffering taxpayer collapsing under the monstrous weight of taxes, Uncle Sam propping up one side, and a stout fellow nearby garbed in a beer barrel. The caption reads "Hey, Uncle! Why Not Let the Big Fella Carry Some of This Load?"

“Perhaps we’ve kept a friend of yours working”, the Bamberger’s ad on April 27, 1932, p.7 declared. “During the past year we have placed orders with several hundred manufacturers of this state....The corsets, shoes, silks and woolens, bedding, furniture, dresses, we have purchased were probably made by many you know.”

Where to cut expenses when your “tax receipts are down”? “Everywhere the city fathers are discovering that budgets must be cut into very materiallyTo close a few branch libraries, to shut down a few playgrounds, to lock the gates on a few swimming pools, and to remove from the payroll the officials who were in charge of those services, is fairly easy—and terribly foolishThis year all of these things are going to be needed as never before....City expenses mustn’t be cut in the wrong places.” (May 2, 1932, p.4 editorial)

One place cuts had to be made: “Owing to a lack of funds available for continuing unemployed work in the water, streets, sewer and park departments the Board of Aldermen is forced to lay off many of the men now working for the Town....The most needy men, however, will be kept on the payroll....These men will not be given steady work but will alternateThere will be no favoritism or partiality shown in discharge of the men.” “The Board, it was pointed out, must “cut its cloth” just as any business house must adjust its help to its income.” (May 3, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on May 3, 1932, p.4 once again roundly criticized past financial practices. In the voice of a prophet, **Look to yourself for the fault**, is the newspaper’s conclusion. “What goes up, in this world, must come down, and if it goes up beyond all reason it is apt to come down in just the same way. We bargained for all of this in those hectic days of 1928 and 1929 when it was popular to talk about a new economic era....We have tried to tell ourselves that we were a virtuous and well meaning people foully victimized by schemers who have taken us for a ride. We have spent two years looking for a scapegoat....Sooner or later...we’ll have to admit that nobody betrayed us, except with our own consent. We lost all sense of value, ...we pretended that it was no longer a sin to gamble (provided one wins) and we surrendered to one of the most dismal orgies of dollar-worshipping the country has ever seen.”

Center top of page 1 on May 5, 1932 features a photograph of famous conductor Leopold Stokowski conducting “230 unemployed musicians in an open air band stand in Philadelphia.”

“The Employment Bureau of Morristown High School...has recently sent out a questionnaire to all ex-students and graduates enrolled in the bureau....there are a number of questions which should help the commercial department find to what extent its students have been able to meet the exacting demands of business [and] ...to make changes in the course and content of various subjects to...anticipate the needs of business in Morristown and vicinity.” (May 6, 1932, p.1)

May elections now knocked depression news out of the paper.

Why not look abroad for inspiration: “One of the most interesting governmental and economic experiments that has come out of the depression is reported from Canada, where the local governments of six small towns that have gone bankrupt are being taken over by the province of Ontario....” The editorial continues by describing how the receivership is to work, then concludes, “Insolvent business firms go into the hands of receivers for the protection of their stock-holders and there seems to be no good reason why insolvent cities should not go into the hands of receivers for the protection of their taxpayers, instead of letting the same gang of

politicians continue to fritter away the public's money and increase the city's debt." (editorial, May 11, 1932, p.4)

More teachers were taking pay cuts—5% in Netcong. "It is planned to pay the teachers the full amount of their salaries and then have them donate to the Board the amount of their voluntary contribution, this protecting their rights of tenure." (May 12, 1932, p.1)

Unemployment as a blow to the male psyche is the subject of an editorial on May 17, 1932, p.4. "One of the sorriest things about the present economic distress is the reversal of positions in the home....in many instances men who can not find employment are washing the cups and saucers and brushing the crumbs away....while their wives....are performing domestic service on exactly the same order that they would in their own homes. There is still a demand for laundresses, seamstresses, cooks.....It has always been a man's places to earn a living for his family. Fathers have always been heroes to their small sons and daughters....It takes a good deal of courage to tie your apron strings in a graceful bow when your kids would rather see you in a suit of armor."

The cartoon "Toonerville Folks" shows a train conductor, watching a businessman walk to work, say, "Another one 'walkin' for exercise!" They never wuz no other depression wot drove so many of my customers exercise crazy!" (May 17, 1932, p.10)

"Are We Troubled With "Nerves?" reads the headline of a May 20, 1932, p.6 editorial. "Many economists labeled "eminent," have expressed their views as to what is wrong with us. Not many of them agree....There have been many that have told us that the depression was largely a state of mind.... hysteria, even, may be the trouble...Maybe...we should stop worrying about the stock market, foreign debts and reparations and start things going here without waiting on the rest of the world...."

Concern for the well-being of the homeless man was expressed in an editorial on May 24, 1932, p.4. "If a man has no opportunity for personal hygiene he is badly handicapped in his fight for existence, all too difficult under the most favorable conditions at the present time. His greatest and last asset, his self-respect, can be quickly destroyed. A place should be provided where these unfortunate men...may take advantage of a liberal supply of soap and water. It will do much to maintain their morals and keep up their spirits."

More revelations about financial shenanigans came in an editorial on May 26, 1932, p.6. "The Raskob pool...cleaned up \$5,000,000 in a week. A group of other traders organized by a freelance put thru an operation that netted the free-lance a million in five weeks, although he had not put up any of his own money. Another company whose stock was being manipulated by a big pool managed to pay out dividends of \$1,500,000 on net profits of \$1,000,000.... the days of easy money are not, really, worth returning to. For those days paved the way for these days in which we are suffering now....the time of 8,000,000 unemployed. When we look ahead to prosperity, let's look ahead to a saner kind...that will be a little bit more enduring."

Yet another discussion of the dole, in an editorial on May 31, 1932, p.6, (see also May 19, 1931; Feb. 19, 1932; March 21, 1932), detailing the horrendous effects in England of dependence on handouts, quoting from a United Press report, "Long idle, they have dropped into a permanent rut.... Their muscles have become soft, their thoughts chronically soured and twisted. Their condition has been likened to shell shock..." The Daily Record writer editorialist asserts, "it might pay us to keep this English object lesson in mind....it warns us how vitally important it is

that we dig up a good substitute....But the dole does prevent starvation.” The editorial cartoon adjacent to this editorial is called “The Cussword Puzzle”, showing a man racking his brains trying to find a better word than “dole”. Federal relief? Moratorium? Reconstruction Finance Corporation? Bonus? Bonds?

An editorial on June 2, 1932, p.4 floated an idea on how to provide jobs for “thousands of carpenters, masons, plumbers and painters” who were unemployed because of the slump in the housing industry, which was that new houses would be “non-taxable for five years or until the houses have been sold or rented....New York state adopted such a scheme following the close of the war...”

Reduction of salaries and wages was the subject of two articles on the front page on June 3, 1932. “Edward W. Kilpatrick...President of the New Jersey Federated Boards of Education... recommended a general reduction of teachers salaries in all parts of New Jersey. The Legislature should take the initiative and reduce salaries of States employees before the teachers agree to wage cuts, however...President Kilpatrick recommended...that preference be given all applicants for new positions, graduates of New Jersey Normal School and teachers colleges. Many thousands of young teachers have been unable to find positions, he said.” The other article reported that the Morris County Board of Freeholders planned to decide at their next meeting on cutting salaries. “Whether this will be on an even basis, a ten or twenty percent cut for everyone, or in proportion to salary with the higher paid men and women taking a larger deduction than those getting small salaries has not yet been decided.” An editorial on June 4, 1932, p.4 pointed out that “those in the employ of the Prosecutor, Surrogate, County Clerk, etc.” would not be affected by the Freeholder pay cut “but it is hoped that an agreement will be reached to treat all alike.”

A front-page article on June 4, 1932 recounted the work done by the Emergency Relief Administration in Morris County from the previous winter through the spring. “To date registrations for the entire county totaling 6,496 and of this number 3,693 families have been given employment and 1,457 direct relief...from the 37 municipalities in Morris County....The Emergency Relief Administration has also been working with the Garden Club of Morristown supplying needy families in Morris County with garden seeds. The Garden Club has contributed the seeds and fertilizer, and the distribution of supplies has been handled through the emergency relief office. Applications have been taken and investigations of all families made before any seed has been given out. To date 57 applicants have been supplied with seed and fertilizer. Most persons have their own land, but in 12 cases where no land was available residents of Morristown loaned land and had it ploughed and harrowed without expense to the individual.” “Selfishness as a Depression Cause” was the title of an editorial on June 4, 1932, p.4, and the newspaper quoted from the manifesto of the Methodist General Conference: “The present industrial order...is un-Christian, un-ethical and anti-social because it is largely based on the profit motive, which is a direct appeal to selfishness....A satisfactory organism cannot grow out of an unsocial seed.” The Daily Record then commented: “This, to be sure, is no more than what most thinking men have been saying lately. Yet it is a thing which needs to be said over and over again....how many of us...have ever stopped to consider the way in which our individual and collective selfishness has helped to dig the pit in which we are now suffering?....It was unrestricted selfishness that caused unwise expansion of industrial plants and so led to over-production: selfishness, too, that kept the millions of American wage-earners from getting incomes high enough to enable them to absorb that overproduction.....We must devise some way of restraining the profit motive.”

In the editorial “Back to the Farm”, the writer saw good coming of the back-to-the-earth movement in that it could prevent starvation “unless he is a one-crop specialist”, despite the dire straits of agriculture, “mortgages, high taxes, overproduction and so on”, if the new farmer had know-ledge of farming and was willing to work hard. “For ...those who know nothing whatever about farms, and have no capital to get them started—the change is likely to be a leap from the frying pan into the fire.” (June 6, 1932, p.4)

A lengthy article appeared on June 7, 1932, p. 1 in which “the Morris County Welfare Board acting as the County Bureau of Old Age Relief” explained the “Old Age Pension” in detail, starting by correcting the misnomer of “pension” as opposed to “ ‘relief’ to persons having no other means of support...” “the State will pay its share of three-fourths of the amount granted” which could be far less than one dollar per day, as “In these times of economic stress when whole families are trying to live on that amount, such a sum awarded to one person seems out of proportion, unless the circumstances are exceptional.” A person would only be considered for Old Age Relief after having “exhausted most of their funds....” “if a recipient should die leaving property of any sort, the County and State are entitled to reimbursement for any sum they have spent on the support of that aged person, before legacies are paid to heirs who have not contributed to his support.”

A photo montage on p.11, June 7, 1932, depicts the beginning of the “bonus army”, initially called the Bonus Expeditionary Force, on it way to Washington from around the country. This was stated to be a situation “full of dangerous possibilities” and Communist leadership.

The first article on the Bonus Army appeared the next day, June 8, 1932, p.1: “Row on row of grim, mute and marching men left today a deep, indelible impression of a nation already beset with a host of difficulties. For the first time, America had an ultimatum from the rank and file of the citizenry, from the men who make the boilers, build the bridges, run the factories and raise the families, the men who fought and won the war. They gathered nearly 9,000 strong and in a parade, striking in its ordiliness [sic] and determination told those who cared to watch that they were here to collect the soldier’s bonus and were ready to stay until 1945. They swung silently through the capital at sundown. With faces hard and set they announced to the world at large that, as they saw it, their government owed them money. They were the same men who, fifteen years ago, climbed over parapets into open country singing with leader death, and some of them having evidence of those earlier campaigns.”

An editorial on June 9, 1932, p.6 expressed some disgust with the bonus marchers: “Those blatant demands for free food, free lodgings and free transportation have hardly been the sort of thing that will make the ordinary citizen eager to dig down for wholesale bonus payments.” And yet the newspaper saw a positive side: “In most countries things take on a much more ominous aspect when war veterans march on the capital...If the government sends troops to stop them, there is much bloodshed; if it fails to do so, there is presently a semi-military dictatorship, led by the ex-soldiers...”

The editorial cartoon on June 9, 1932, p.6 turned around the subject of the bonus marchers with the caption, “Here’s a March on Washington That Would Be More to the Point!”, depicting swarms of taxpayers in suits carrying placards saying “Take relatives of Congressmen off government pay roll”, “Serve country first, local constituency last”, and “Economize till it hurts!” The editorial cartoon on June 10, 1932, p.6 continued the theme of economizing with a

montage of vignettes: “Fire from government payroll all mothers-in-law and other relatives of Congressmen!”, “Put the Congressional Record on paying basis by charging ballyhooing Congressmen for advertising space!”, “Eliminate commissions and use excess hot air from Congress to thaw out frozen assets!”

Saving money wherever possible was the theme of the day when revenues were so slim, as discussed in the editorial “Where Economy is Needed” on June 8, 1932, p.4, at a time when taxpayer associations were organizing. “If federal taxes go up, the citizen of modest means may have to pay out \$25 in taxes annually instead of \$10; but his city, state and county governments will take from him – if he is a property owner - anywhere from \$100 to \$300 a year....there is a lot more lost motion in city and state governments than there is at Washington. Inefficiency and graft amount to more. A bigger percentage of the taxpayer’s dollar is drained off to take care of “the boys.” “

“The labor situation in Morris County is more intense than ever but the Freeholders can do little to help conditions, it was stated at the meeting of the Board yesterday....It laid off over 100 of its old men, who had been working for it for years through times when they could have gotten better jobs possibly, so that it could help the unemployment during the winter months but now as far as possible it is taking these older men back.” (June 9, 1932, p.1)

“The Morris County Welfare Board...report for the month of May, 1932” stated that “the total number of applications [for Old Age Relief] is three hundred and eighty-nine....The unmarried applicants seem to be in greater need than married applicants, as there are no legally responsible relatives....There has been a marked increase in the number of applications for permanent County care of indigent persons....One of the most serious problems is the family where the father is unreliable and either deserts his family or is so brutal and refuses to work so that the family cannot allow him to live at home. Several very pitiful situations have come to the attention of the Board where the family is in need because the father is insane, tubercular or chronically ill.” (June 10, 1932, p.11)

In mid-June, the GOP convention was taking place and displacing some depression news.

Laborers at the Eden and Malapardis paper mills went on strike protesting “a 25 percent wage cut” from “forty cents an hour...to thirty cents”, the paper reported on June 14, 1932, p.1. A strike was also called at the Agar Boxboard Company in Whippany to protest a ten cent cut in wages. “A compromise, however, appears likely when the Eden Mill offered to reduce the amount of the cut it had announced...to five cents an hours. (June 16, 1932, p.1) The June 18th paper, p.1, reported the Eden and Malapardis strike settled, with “a five cent an hour wage cut instead of the 10 cents an hour ordered by owners of the mill”, which were “running only part time and...at a loss”.

Samuel Insull was a tycoon who had a great fall. “His rise was fast and dazzling...Insull’s ...fortune...rated at \$100,000,000....And now...His properties have gone into receivership, he has lost all of his own fortune in a futile effort to save them, he has some \$10,000,000 of debts and his personal income is a modest pension voted at the last minute by directors of his former companies. He is 73 years old....it seems...that an era has closed. Things grew too fast, too big, perhaps: the giants who were lifted up by the process have been cast down....A kind of maturity has come to us...marked by contraction instead of expansion.” (June 14, 1932, p.4 editorial)

The June 15, 1939 paper reported on p.1 on a speech given by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, E. J. MacEwan to the local Rotary Club. His said that the expectation that “the stock market will lead the way back to prosperity” was NOT the answer. Rather, “business must improve to such an extent that it will be the motivating factor in bringing the market back to normal....Praying and hoping that legislation will bring us out of this difficulty is the most absurd thing I have heard in a long time. We deplore increasing taxes; we damn our legislators up hill and down; we refuse, however, to acknowledge the fact that high expenditures during the past 10 years, with our implied approval through our silence, is the one and only cause of our high taxes today.”

“More than one thousand appeals from tax assessments have been filed with the Morris County Tax Board....The number is about three times as large as at any time in the past....The majority of appeals are due to increase in taxes and not to any changes in the assessments, it is believed. As long as the valuations remain the same and they were not protested in other years, it is not likely that the County Board can do anything in these cases....The big total of appeals is from Pequannock where there are 125 listed. There have been many changes there, some of them allegedly due to political dissension. In one case a property, which was assessed at \$1,700 last year, has been valued this year at \$17,000.” (June 16, 1932, p. 1)

“A Mountain Lakes engineer, despondent over financial conditions, killed himself yesterday.... Esten Bolling...38...had been rated as one of the foremost heating and ventilating experts in the country and at one time had an income of \$35,000 a year but...he was in financial difficulties at the present time....The Bollings had lived in the York Village section...for three or four years... and were quite prominent in Mt. Lakes activities. Their home was known as a model one on heating and ventilation. Bolling...is said to be a cousin of Edith Bolling Galt, second wife of Woodrow Wilson.” (June 18, 1932, p. 1)

Rodney Dutcher, Washington Correspondent for The Daily Record and NEA Service, wrote a series about Herbert Hoover's term as President. In the first article, on June 18, 1932, p.3, Dutcher writes, “Herbert Hoover ...has had worse luck than any president who ever got out of the White House alive. The depression has overshadowed everything else in his administration. It has made impossible many of the things he had hoped to do and tended to minimize many of the things he actually has done. Hoover ran plow into a slump of unprecedented depth and duration....The going has been especially painful for Hoover and the Republicans because in 1928 they sold themselves to the country as perpetual guarantors of prosperity. Hoover was sure prosperity had come to stay; he was the “superman” who would lead us to new heights and abolish poverty.”

“What started out to be a budget-saving tax bill seems to have become, by some process of congressional magic, a tariff bill....the tax bill is...an emergency measure. The federal government has found that its expenditures are exceeding its income by many, many millions of dollars....New sources of income must be found. Until this job is done, nothing else that Congress can do amounts to very much....Why...in the name of sanity, force [tariff sections] into the tax bill and further complicate an already complicated problem?...The country has been watching anxiously to see if [Congress] has enough intelligence and patriotism to enable it to function properly in a great national emergency. Its action in jamming tariff increases into a taxation measure is almost enough to make one think that it has not.” (editorial, June 18, 1932, p.4)

“...at midnight, the new federal sales tax law goes into effect. “ (June 20, 1932, p.1) “...nearly anything one purchases tomorrow, with the exception of the ordinary food supplies will be subject to tax of one kind or another.” “Sports goods and cameras are all taxed ten percent... Electric light bills will also be taxed, this being three percent of the amount of the bill....All checks on the banks will be taxed two cents. This will be charged on the total number of checks issued each month and the bank will deduct the amount from a person’s balance in the checking accounts, giving them a statement each month...”

First National Bank, National Iron Bank, American Trust Co., Morristown Trust Co., and Morris County Savings Bank cooperated in a large boxed ad on June 20, 1932, p.3 to explain “How Will The Tax On Checks Be Paid?”

Regarding Morristown finances, “The Town cut its budget considerably this past year, saving over \$10,000 as a result, but the county and school budgets resulted in the tax rate being increased....One possibility is a general cutting of the entire payroll and this saving would be passed along to the people in reduced tax rates next year.” (June 21, 1932, p.1) “Some of the cuts may be graduated, based on the different wage scales...these rates will run from possibly two to fifteen per cent for the Town employees. It is most likely that the Board of Education will adopt a flat ten per cent wage cut.” (June 24, 1932, p.1)

Regarding county finances, “The Board of Freeholders will take action...for the reduction of salaries of all county employees....The wage cut, to be effective, must include all of the departments and all employees from the top down, but the Board is not in a position to force any reductions with the exception of those under its direct control, such as the engineering, road and bridge departments....a graduated scale might be made effective, this being from one to ten percent, according to the amount of salaries....a candidate for Sheriff announced that he would take the job for one third less and even had a bill introduced into the Legislature providing for this cut in the Sheriff’s pay....Those against the cut contend that the Freeholders and court officials, who put in only part time and yet receive among the highest salaries, are the ones who should be reduced.” (June 22, 1932, p.1)

The Borough of Madison was also considering cuts, as “The average expenditure for unemployment relief since January has been \$1,500 per month. Work is now being given to only a few men daily as the relief funds are exhausted....a 10 per cent cut in salaries of all employees would bring a saving of \$20,000 a year and ...\$10,000 of this could be applied to emergency relief between now and next January.” (June 22, 1932, p.1)

By the following day, “Salary cuts, ranging from two to ten percent and resulting in a saving of about \$15,000 for the balance of the year, will be put in effect on July 1 in Morris County. It affects practically every office in the county...Prosecutor Orville V. Meslar, one of the six highest paid men in the county, refused to accept any cut....Meslar said...that he had carried on the duties of the prosecutor without the help of any assistant allowed by law....Prosecutor Meslar gets \$6,500 a year and his duties are only part time....” (June 23, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on June 24, 1932, p.6 touches on the “Senate committee’s stock market investigation... the facts brought out provide a lot of food for thought.....one thing has been made painfully apparent: our whole financial machinery makes it possible for enormous profits to be made by men who render the public no service whatever....A gambler is a gambler, whether he sits in on Wall Street or on a four-bit poker game in a smoky hotel roomwe lost

sight of this fact. The men who made millions in Wall Street became “financial giants” ...They are not...engaged in building up the country’s industry, fostering its trade, buttressing its prosperity. They are simply devoting to purely selfish purposes money and energy that might have been put to a constructive use.”

An understanding of the Bonus March phenomenon was attempted in an editorial on June 25, 1932, p.4. “Deep down there is working a very real discontent; a feeling that America has somehow failed to deal justly with millions of people who have been good citizens; a subconscious but potent motion that it is high time for a new deal of some kind or other. The march of the “bonus expeditionary force” is simply a symptom of that unrest. We can deplore the veterans’ actions in Washington all we please...but if we are wise we shall take this discontent into account, see where it is justified and look for ways of removing it.”

“Right now we are well on in the third year of one of the sharpest eye-openers any people ever had to face. It isn’t a bit of fun, and the end is not in sight....it is becoming obvious every day that the high old times which ended with the market crash of 1929 were, above all, an era of bunk....If there is any single reason why we descended into the pit that was dug for us, it is that we were all so very willing to believe a lot of things that weren’t so.....We let ourselves get away from the need of...fundamental virtues, and we are paying for it now...” (June 28, 1932, p.4 editorial)

“Congressman Charles A. Eaton, representing the Fourth Congressional district, which includes Morris County, last night bitterly attacked the attitude of the public towards Congress...a fiery denunciation which fairly stunned the audience...declaring that the American people have “gone yellow for the first time in 150 years”...” ““The people of the United States...are whining to Congress for help...over a situation which they alone have the power to prolong or to bring to an end....I receive one thousand letters a day at my office in Washington and they come from as many lunatics. Do this, do that for us, is the plea, give us something, do us this favor and that favor.” “ (June 29, 1932, p.1)

The first deductions in county paychecks would be seen on July 15th. “If they don’t like the reduction, it is possible for those who are dissatisfied to take the matter into court and let the courts decide. The County cut two per cent over salaries under \$1,000 and graded its scale up to ten per cent for those receiving more than \$4,000.” (June 29, 1932, p.1)

An editorial appeared on June 29, 1932, p.4 praising an apparent “revival of the national spirit.” A number of towns in Missouri rejected the pork barrel expenditure of new post office buildings, telling their congressmen “they would prefer to see Uncle Same practice a little rigid economyNor was this phenomenon peculiar to Missouri. It happened in many other parts of the country....separate districts always thought more of their own bit of pork than they did of the federal budget....Too many congressmen have tackled all problems from the local angle and have let the national angle go hang....A great many congressmen who thought they were about to make themselves solid with their constituents discovered overnight that they had guessed wrong.”

A schedule of reimbursement from the State Emergency Relief Administration of “financial aid to...municipalities on the basis of population” would be put into effect July 1st, with cities of 50,000 and more to be entitled to “30 cents per inhabitant” down to a maximum of “20 cents per inhabitant” “in municipalities of 10,000 population and less”. (June 30, 1932, p.1)

“Harry H. Cummins, 59 years of age, killed himself last night at his home on River Edge Road [Lincoln Park]. He fired a bullet from a .32 caliber revolver into his brain...in the presence of his wife, stepdaughter and the latter’s husband.....Financial difficulties and worry because he had been out of work were given as the reasons for his action.” (July 1, 1932, p.1)

“Many changes in State Police personnel were announced today in connection with the move of economy that has resulted in the closing of several substations, including the one at Chester... .A large number of men were transferred and others dropped.” (July 1, 1932, p.1)

“So far as Jersey Central Power & Light Company is concerned, the Receivership of National Public Service Corporation will have no unfavorable effects on the operation...the company ...has no Bond maturities for 14 years. The company’s banking condition is most satisfactoryA strict program of economy has enabled the company to maintain its earnings on a basis which is thoroughly satisfactory...” (July 1, 1932, p.5)

“The Board of Health...presents a re-adjusted salary schedule for the balance of this fiscal year which represents a decrease of 10 per cent in the salary of each and every one of its official agents and appointees,” reported the Morristown Board of Health letter to the Board of Aldermen. (July 1, 1932, p.5)

“Girl students in one of New York’s best known schools of design are undismayed by the depression. They have been taught to create attractive “hard times” dresses of colorful prints for as little as 50 cents and fashionable beach pajamas of terry cloth...costing less than a dollar.” The article is illustrated by a photograph showing the young women modeling several of the fashions. (July 1, 1932, p.9)

“officers and employes in state institutions” would be seeing salary reductions soon “on the basis of 1 to 10 per cent with \$1,200 a year as the minimum, increasing by a graduated scale, the 10 per cent cut being effective with salaries of \$4500 and over. Heads of families receiving up to \$1,800 a year...are exempt from salary reductions.” These institutions included Greystone Park Hospital, where the medical superintendent was making \$13,100 a year. (July 2, 1932, p.1)

In Morristown, “Drastic wage cuts, running as high as 15 per cent, with curtailing of all programs, elimination of extra employees and part time work for many was adopted by the Board of Aldermen....It was the biggest slash in wages ever made....The money ...saved will be used for the reduction of the outstanding indebtedness of the town....the money will also be used for tax reduction for 1933 and for unemployment relief.” (July 2, 1932, p.1) More specific figures were published on July 9, 1932, p.1: “The percentages start with five for those receiving up to \$1,099, and increases one percent for each \$100 up to \$1,500. All over \$1,500 are sliced ten percent.... The average deduction is 9.8 percent.” Savings from the Board of Education would be \$30,722; along with cuts in other departments, “a total saving of about \$62,000 to the taxpayers of Morristown....The salary deductions...will of course have to be voluntary on the part of all concerned...”

An editorial on July 2, 1932, p.4 invoked the war for independence in 1776. “We, too, are fighting for our independence;...from the business cycle, from industrial stagnation, from poverty, from hunger....The fight can be won if we set ourselves to it. But to win it we shall have to unite.... this is no time for the jealousy of class against class. It calls for united action.”

And in that spirit, the editorial cartoon on July 2, 1932, p.4 entitled “The Spirit of 1932” depicted Business, Industry, and Labor beating drums, hoisting the flag, leading the Public and Farmers into the face of Depression.

“applied science has made it possible for the work of the world to be done with far less human effort than ever before”, though right now “so many millions of Americans have so much more leisure than they have any use for.....so many men would gladly embrace any kind of drudgery if only it provided regular wages and steady meals”, but at some time in the future, “we can emerge into an era finer than anything we have known before.” (July 5, 1932, p.4 editorial)

“postmasters’ salaries are determined from year to year by the volume of business.” In Morris county, “eleven postmasters will get increased pay...fourteen will continue to draw the same salary as last year and only seven will suffer salary cuts...” (July 7, 1932, p.1) (see also August 6, 1932)

In Madison, “It is understood that the council will favor reductions in salaries only if they are applied to the teachers in the public schools as well as to the other borough departments.” (July 8, 1932, p.1) Even before the Board of Education and Board of Health decisions, The Madison Council passed a resolution “deducting 10 per cent from salaries of all employees under its jurisdiction....effective until the Council deems that times warrant placing its employees back upon the salaries they now receive.” (July 12, 1932, p.1)

In Morristown, Mayor Clyde Potts “protested against the permanent appointment of several patrolmen to the local Police Department....there was no public necessity for the appointments...and the action obligates the town for the salaries...” (July 8, 1932, p.1)

“There has been...an enormous amount of fake optimism broadcast since the depression began. If it had been possible for us to talk ourselves back to economic health we would be robust by this time. But at the same time there has been an amazing undercurrent of fear, and this...has been sadly overdone....You’ve heard them—everyone has. Dark prophecies of doom....While we are wailing, and looking for new and blacker storm clouds to arise, the stage is slowly being set for a return to prosperity. If we stop looking behind each bush for a bogeyman we can recognize our opportunity when it arrives. If we don’t we shall simply prolong the agony.” (July 8, 1932, p.4 editorial)

Preparations for the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles beginning July 30 and ending August 14 pushed in-depth treatment of other concerns out of the paper for the duration.

“news...that the amount of money realized from the deductions of salaries ordered last week by unanimous consent of the Board would reach... \$34,709 instead of the \$15,000 originally announced was received yesterday by the Morris County Board of Freeholders....practically every department in the county government has agreed to accept the cut in wages. The only dissenting voice to be heard thus far is that of Prosecutor Orville V. Meslar...” (July 14, 1932, p.1)

In Boonton, “The Board of Aldermen...after considerable argument, voted that the sum of \$200 be appropriated” “for Relief Work for...July” “The amount of \$700 as introduced originally was

fixed by the county on the basis of the 75¢ per week per capita without any thought of the actual need of the Town.” (July 14, 1932, p.1)

The Semi-Annual Report of the Welfare Board appeared July 14, 1932, p.7. “...the past six months has proven disastrous for many hitherto self-supporting persons. On the other hand, the greater need for relief has been used as a cloak for the demands of many undeserving persons. To separate the truly needy from those not entitled to county support, and to make sure that the money of the hard pressed taxpayers is not spent unnecessarily has been a heavy responsibility on the Board.” “Each case has been carefully checked by the social investigators, discussed and passed upon by the Case Committee, and approved by the entire Board. No case has been refused without definite proof that other assistance was available, and every case which was demonstrated to be in need has received assistance irrespective of race, creed, or political affiliation.”

The editorial cartoon of July 20, 1932, p.4 depicts Congressmen stitching together a “crazy quilt” of Depression remedies: Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Home Loan Banking Bill, Tax Bill, Economy Bill, Relief Bill, Lame Duck Amendment.

A byline from Lake Hopatcong reported on a speech by Leopold A. Chambliss, assistant vice president of the Fidelity Union Trust Co. of Newark entitled “Benefits of Depression”. “In 1929, he said, the nation’s credit structure almost collapsed, but today there has been a change in the attitude of the public and the leaning structure has again found a firm foundation.” He “stated that the “soak the rich” idea was bad and that the alternative was the new form of taxation in the general sales tax.” (July 21, 1932, p.1)

“Payment of workers in food tickets instead of currency and a plan under which the borough will pay rents of destitute families will constitute the program of the Mayor’s unemployment committee in Madison beginning on August 1st....There are about 150 families having 700 members without any means of support....No rent will be paid where one or more members of a family are working.” (July 21, 1932, p.1)

A photograph on page 5, July 21, 1932 shows five men pulling a plow and one man behind steering the cultivator. “Plow shackles of feudal serfs had nothing on the plowing arrangements of 104 jobless men who are cultivating 36 acres of land near Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Until recently all the plowing equipment consisted of six sturdy backs and an old plow. Five of the men, arranged as shown in the above photo, dragged the heavy plow along while the sixth guided the blade. Captain James T. Flowers, of the Akron National Guard, has promised to loan the men horses to plow the land they are tilling by hand.”

“The federal government has taken a number of steps that may have incalculable consequencesIt has advanced large sums to...railroads; it will advance much more to other roads in the near future....Suppose that some railroads...cannot repay these loans; what then? Will Uncle Sam do what any other creditor would do—take the defaulting roads over to protect his investment?another unexpected development might come out of the vast loans which Uncle Sam is about to make to states and cities. Suppose that some of these loans cannot be repaid....By becoming a gigantic lending agency, our government has embarked on an entirely new course....Only one thing is certain; we are in for some profound changes...” (July 23, 1932, p.4 editorial)

On the subject of Old Age Pensions: “Applicants for the old age pension in New Jersey totaled 12,391 on July 1st....Pensions have been granted so far to 1,703 of the applicants and another 1,355 have been denied after investigating the financial condition of those seeking this aid. The average grant...thus far has been \$17.07 a month per person....Out of the total number of applicants 6436 were males and 5955 females.” (July 26, 1932, p.1)

“New Taxes Hit John Citizen 25 Times From Morning Shower to Night Club”; “Sleep Cheapest Pleasure—It’s Free” headlined a clever article on all the new taxes enacted to balance the federal budget., some of them illustrated in a cartoon pie chart. (July 27, 1932, p.2)

“Mayor Roach, of Dover, presented a plan to the Dover Board of Aldermen this week calling for savings instead of salary deductions.....Mayor Roach’s ideas are along the lines being pursued in St. Louis.....A feature of the St. Louis plan calls for the holding back of ten percent of the salaries which will go to the employees at the end of the year providing the necessary economies have been made so that the municipal government is conducted within the budget set for it.....A sys-tem such as this....certainly makes for better morale than where everyone is simply faced with a lowered salary about which he or she can do nothing. It is too bad that Morristown doesn’t try to really save...” (July 27, 1932, p.4 editorial)

“Town officials and relief administrators of Morris County looked forward to a winter beset with difficult relief problems....”Take good care of the ‘newly poor’,” Colonel Sears [deputy director of the State Emergency Relief Administration] advised the local relief directors, “but be hard boiled with the professional poor and the chiselers. We must follow this policy if we are to remain long enough to help the deserving.” “ (July 28, 1932, p.1)

“31.65 Per Cent Of 1931 Taxes Not Paid Here, Compared With State Average of 30—East Hanover Had Poorest Collections” headlined an article on July 28, 1932, p.1.

“The tax situation continues so serious in Pequannock Township with the possibility ever approaching of not being able to open the schools in September....No teachers’ contracts have been signed and contracts for supplies and transportation have also not been arranged owing to the seriousness of the situation....there are no funds for needed repairs....The situation is partially due to the large amount of unpaid taxes...” (Aug. 4, 1932, p.1)

“The eleven Morris County postmasters who won and were paid salary increases July 1 by increased receipts at their offices today were informed that such increases are in conflict with the economy law and must be refunded to the treasury....The refund order also affects assistant postmasters, supervisory officials, including superintendents and assistant superintendents at these same offices....” (Aug. 6, 1932, p.1)

“It is beginning to look...as if the end of the depression were just about in sight....But there are one or two thing the depression has taught us...our utter lack of any organizational system to prevent recurrence of the unemployment cycle is almost criminally stupid....our hit-or-miss way of taking care of the victims of the unemployment cycle is unsatisfactory as it possibly could be....it is a little hard to understand why there are still die-hards who protest loudly against any plans for state old age and unemployment insurance. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce... declared that such proposals are “socialistic” and it predicted that they would “undermine and weaken” the character of the people....you might take a few minutes...and consider whether our present system, or lack of system, is not even more fatal to self-reliance and ambition. Go to the

breadlines and see if the private charity that has got us through this depression has not “undermined and weakened” the character of its recipients. Go out with the social workers into the homes of families which have lived on free handouts for a year, or two years, and see what has happened there. Then ask yourself if a system of state unemployment and old age insurance could possibly be any more harmful.” (editorial, Aug. 8, 1932, p.4)

“At the present time the Stock Market continues to soar upward and everyone is happy.... Whatever goes up must come down....the small buyer ...buys at the top or sells at the bottom and when the next wave comes in he generally loses....beware of being too carried away by rising stock prices.” (editorial, Aug. 9, 1932, p.4)

In a dateline from Omaha: “the amazing farmers’ strike continued to spread through the agricultural west today with civil authorities threatening to break up the movement unless its advocates abandon highway blockades in favor of quiet persuasion....a means of forcing higher prices for poultry, dairy and farm products...”This revolt is neither Republican nor Democratic,” said one prominent Democratic leader. The citizens on the farms...are willing to try anything. It’s like the bonus march....their economic conditions compelled them to try action when sitting at home had gotten them nothing. So it is with the farmers. The Republicans will get hit if the movement becomes political but for only one reason, because they are the party in power in the nation.”...Hundreds of farmers picketed the highways leading into...Sioux City, Council Bluffs and Spencer. The sheriff at Council Bluffs arrested 61 but released them on bonds when a mob of 1,000 farmers stormed into the city threatening to stage a jail delivery...” (Aug. 26, 1932, p.1)

“Governor Moore today made public the following list of purchases for state uses which, in his opinion, do not indicate a desire to co-operate in the program for economy.” These include “One fountain pen at \$20”; “One picture frame \$125”; “Salted almonds at \$1 a pound”; “One Guernsey cow, \$950; “Three water coolers at \$163.20 each”; “One three-quart ice cream freezer \$60”; two radiator covers, \$95.55”. (August 26, 1932, p.1)

“Governor Moore...called upon the heads of all state departments to cut their expenses of the present fiscal year...”An appropriation is not a mandate to spend”, said the Governor....Year after year, state payrolls have shown large increases. This year they must be reduced.” ” Following are a couple of the specific recommendations contained in the Moore letter on economy. “The use of the present 600 state owned trucks and other motor equipment can be curtailed 33 1-3 per cent without hampering state work. Their use should be restricted to state business and then only shall drivers be furnished for department heads....Allowances for mid-day meals for officers and employees in the state service will be discontinued.” (August 26, 1932, p.1)

Further cuts in State government were reported on August 31, 1932, p.1. “Despite the declarations of departmental heads whose legal advisors have been eliminated by the Governor’s action in removing nine assistants to the Attorney General, Mr. Moore remains adamant that none of the lawyers dropped would be reinstated....”As an example of the system concerning the legal work in this [road] department Mr. Moore declared that one of the \$5,000 assistants to the Attorney General assigned to highway work was used to carry the checks to owners of property bought by the state for rights of way. For this work he rode around in a state car with a state chauffeur to render service which any clerk could have performed.”

“the Woman’s Club of Dover...reports an urgent call for children’s, men’s and women’s clothing...The call for children’s clothing is constant...Miss Hance has several men and women registered who are anxious for and in need of work and who are highly recommended. Anyone having a job, large or small, which he wants done well and reasonable or mothers wishing to have someone care for their children a few hours while at rest or play may call Miss Hance at 53 Lincoln Avenue.” (August 29, 1932, p.5)

An editorial from the Long Branch Daily Record appeared on August 30, 1932, p.4. “Monmouth county farmers who depend upon the lowly potato to make the year’s work either profitable or a loss have agreed not to market their tubers until September 19 unless the market reaches 75 cents per 100 pounds....Refusal of Monmouth agriculturists to sell at the present low price should not be construed as indicating they will join western farmers in a strike but is, rather, a sensible solution to their problem. The Daily Record again urges all Monmouth county people to give the potato a place on the daily menu and help the farmers who are, after all, the backbone of our state and nation.”

“A question which is going to be raised...during the Community Chest campaign...was brought up in a letter to a Cleveland newspaper...by Mr....Lopresti who contends that 50 per cent of the chest dollar goes to “petty, parasitic bureaucracy” and then goes on to point out that he means such agencies as the Boy Scouts and Y.M.C.A....” A response was provided by “Newton D. Baker, national chest campaign head....”character is essential to happiness and the character-building agencies are indispensable to any effort which confronts poverty, want and disease.... Indeed, I am persuaded that the answer to these problems and a relief from these distresses will come chiefly from the building up in us of that very character which for the moment Mr. Lopresti impatiently discards.” “ (editorial, August 31, 1932, p.4)

“To keep her two children from going hungry an Ohio woman will serve five months in the workhouse. She has committed no offense and the imprisonment is quite voluntary. She is going to jail because neither she nor a police probation officer could find any other way in which the little boys, seven and eight years old, could be fed and clothed.....The boys’ father died, the young widow remarried and the second marriage was a failure. Working in a candy factory, the mother earned \$16 a week and provided for her children. Then she lost her job. For a time the grandparents cared for the boys, but money became scarcer....the little boys went hungry and the mother...could not even support herself....In the workhouse this mother can earn \$15 a month, which will care for her children....when a great American city has no other answer for a mother trying to support her children than to send her to jail, surely the challenge can not be ignored.... Prison walls are not the answer for this problem. Unemployment insurance, old age pensions, enlightened relief from those who have plenty for those who are helpless—these point the way out.” (editorial, Sept. 1, 1932, p.4)

“The emergency relief and construction act recently signed by President Hoover insures some measure of early unemployment relief through road construction.....The highway funds provided in the total of \$136,000,000 are: \$120,000,000 for emergency construction on the federal aid highway system; \$5,000,000 for national forest highways; \$5,000,000 for improvements of national park roads, and \$2,000,000 for roads through public lands ...In addition to the direct highway appropriation, \$300,000,000 is made available for relief and work relief, including highway and street work. This money will be loaned to states, counties and cities by the Reconstruction Finance corporation on request of governors of states.....Employment benefits will not be confined to the workers on the roads directly but will extend to those working in

factories, plants and mines producing road equipment and materials and also on transportation lines conveying them to the construction sites....” (Sept. 6, 1932, p. 11)

“Broken homes—separation of husbands and wives and in some cases divorce—are resulting, according to a Washington dispatch, from the “married persons” clause of the government’s new economy act. The clause provides that married persons, living with a husband or wife also on the government payroll, shall be dismissed before other employes....Among cases cited...are a husband earning \$1917 and a wife \$1248 who contribute support to 14 people; another husband earning \$1900 and wife earning \$1640 who are buying a home they will lose if their income is reduced....The situation seems to be another in which that which seems to be for the general good works hardship in individual cases....Here is one more indication that the ills of our complicated economic life today can not be cured by remedies effective 20 years ago.” (editorial, Sept. 7, 1932, p.4)

“Employees of the Madison public school system, including teachers, principals, janitors and clerks, have voted to voluntarily donate ten per cent of their monthly salaries to the Mayor’s Emergency Employment Committee for the remainder of the calendar year Under the arrangement, the employees will receive their regular monthly wage, and then turn ten per cent of it over to the supervising principal who in turn will present it to W. Reginald Baker, chairman of the relief committee.” (Sept. 9, 1932, p.1)

“Four more high salaried state employees lost their jobs today when Governor Moore again swung the axe of economy on state payrolls to produce a further reduction of \$22,200. Those affected are: State Budget Commissioner John C. Feil, of Newark, at \$7,000 a year; Dr. A.B. Meredith, educational advisor to the State Board of Regents, at \$6,000; Arthur Adams, secretary and director of Historic Sites Commission, at \$5,000; Armand T. Nichols, confidential clerk to Secretary of State Thos. A. Mathis, at \$4,200. Feil, Adams and Nichols are Republicans, but the politics of Dr. Meredith is unknown.” (Sept. 10, 1932, p.1)

The editorial cartoon on Sept. 10, 1932, p.4 is titled “The Reprieve!” and depicts an auctioneer holding “The American Home” in his left hand, his right hand holding the hammer about the strike the block, as Uncle Sam comes rushing up with a document in his hand that says “60-Day Moratorium on Home Mortgage Foreclosures”.

“During the last school year the Home Economics department at the Morristown High School repaired and made over second-hand garments and distributed them among the families of the unemployed. It also provided food and milk free to those who were in need. This year the department is willing to follow the same plan. It could also make use of vegetables and fruits to can for distribution among the needy if it could be supplied with empty mason jars and fresh fruits and vegetables...The school will be glad to call for empty mason jars, second-hand clothing...and fresh fruits and vegetables...” (Sept. 13, 1932, p.6) See also Sept. 22, 1931.

“Salaries of fourteen subordinates in the Division of Architecture and Construction, of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, today were cut practically in half by Governor Moore to accomplish a saving of \$30,360. None of the ‘higher up’ officials in the division were hit by this latest move....the Governor took the view that it would be best to make a general cut along the line of the subordinates in the bureau and retain these employees at a decreased rate of pay, rather than keep a few at the salaries they have been receiving” (Sept. 15, 1932, p.1)

“From present indications Morris County will end its year with a substantial balance, which will be used as a nucleus for next year’s budget and will be the first step towards drastic slashes.... Every department...is expected to prepare to show a substantial decrease from this year in the amount of expenditures, declared Director Stephen C. Griffith of the Board of Freeholders....” (Sept. 15, 1932, p.1)

The editorial cartoon on Sept. 16, 1932, p.4 portrays a farmer with a distressed look on his face, holding up a blackboard illustrating his expenses that shows the impossibility of his making a living. In part: “If it costs a farmer 72 cents to raise a bu. of wheat that sells for 54 cents, how long will it take the sheriff to foreclose a \$2000 mortgage on his farm?”

“The Stock Market is believed to be friendly toward Hoover and hostile towards Roosevelt. The recent advance in the price of securities is affirmed by many to be a Republican dodge and these same people believe that if Hoover loses the bubble will burst and prices on the Stock Exchange will go far through their previous lows....Those at the head of the Stock Exchange realize that this serious indictment exists in the minds of some people, whether rightly or wrongly, and for that reason has ordered an investigation into telegrams brokers sent before and after the Maine election. The chief aim of the inquiry in short is an attempt to set up a policy of impartiality in the national campaign....” (editorial, Sept. 17, 1932, p.4)

“A third request to the State Emergency Relief Commission, asking for another grant of \$1,800 with which to carry on relief work was authorized last night by the Wharton Borough Council after Councilman Frank Fishbourne, chairman of the borough emergency relief committee, stated that there are 111 families, comprising 410 persons, in more or less dire need....” (Sept. 20, 1932, p.6) By Oct. 18, 1932, p.1, Councilman Fishbourne “issued an appeal to all citizens to come to the aid of the hundreds of needy persons dependent upon the town of Wharton for their very existence....Wharton has been receiving \$1,800 a month for a considerable period from the state...But this sum has been greatly reduced...At the present time there are 132 needy families, numbering 500 persons, in Wharton...”

“All of the teachers in the Morris Township public schools volunteered to take a 5 per cent cut in their salaries, it was announced at the September meeting of the Morris Township Board of Education....Each teacher also offered to give two dollars from his or her salary each month for welfare work in the township....Organizations associated with school work in Morris Township have been especially interested in welfare work and assisting the needy, especially needy children, and only recently a special welfare committee was appointed to see that the less fortunate children in the township were properly cared for.” (Sept. 21, 1932, p.1)

“Probably the one thing that has preserved the stability of the great mass of Americans through the past three years has been the belief that out of this economic disaster we would draw knowledge by which we could avoid similar disasters in the future. It has been felt that we are working our way, very painfully and slowly, toward a planned society in which security would be something more than an empty word....Now comes our optimist to assure us that all of this is just in the course of nature, and that our children...will go through exactly what we have been going through. Depressions are inevitable and we must refuse to let them bother us....A depression, of course, means one thing to a comfortably situated gentleman who never knows what it is to go hungry, to lack a place to sleep or to worry about how his family is going to find means to exist; and it means something entirely different to a wage-earner who has lost his job,

his savings, his home and his hope. Those of us who have been lucky must never forget that difference.” (editorial, Sept. 22, 1932, p.4)

“The teachers of Parsippany-Troy Hills are opposed to having their salaries deducted the same as has been generally done in other sections, but are willing to donate six percent of their pay providing that all other employees of the Township are made to take a six per cent reduction.” (Sept. 22, 1932, p.1)

“Horace Jeffers, Acting Morris County director of the Emergency Relief Administration, stated today that it is hoped that a considerable number of unemployed men throughout the County may find at least part time work in connection with the proposed extensions on State Highway Routes No. 10 and 23....the number of jobs available will be apportioned among the various municipalities of the County.” (Sept. 22, 1932, p.1)

“The Electric Alloy plant of the Driver-Harris Company, located on Ridgedale Avenue, will close down on or about October 1....poor business conditions brought about the shut-down. The twenty-five employees...will be shifted to the Harrison plant....The Electric Alloy plant has been located here since 1908....The plant in normal times employed from forty to fifty men. The great majority of these were from Morristown.” (Sept. 23, 1932, p.1)

“Making his fifth economy move today, Governor Moore reduced the salaries of the three members of the Law Revision Commission and nine members of the commission’s staff to accomplish a saving of \$8,500 in the payroll for the nine months of the present state fiscal year remaining. Inasmuch as these fifteen state officials and employees have already taken salary deductions under the 1932 act...the total saving is \$14,500 in this division of state government ...In view of the nature of the work done by the commission the services of a specially trained staff was required....The highest paid is Richard E. McIntosh of Kansas whose title is Chief Reviser or Supervisor at \$12,000, which is now reduced to \$9,000.” (Sept. 24, 1932, p.1)

“A deduction in salaries proposed by the Board of Education has been accepted by the teachers in Rockaway Borough schools....The deduction is 5 percent up to \$1,000 and 10 percent above that. It applies to this school year. A vote of thanks was given the teachers by the Board.” (Sept. 25, 1932, p.1)

“Declaring that taxes will have to be reduced and laying the blame on not one person or body for the state of affairs today, but on practically everyone, former State Senator J. Henry Bacheller, president of the Fidelity Union Trust Company...delivered a most interesting address last evening at the Wayside Inn.” (Sept. 27, 1932, p.1)

“When Senator Borah urges downward revision of the \$12,000,000,000 load of debt carried by the American farmer he is simply pointing out to...the nation as a whole...that American agriculture has skidded down into a situation so critical that action of the most drastic sort is imperatively required....It is...obvious that as long as agriculture has to carry that load of debt, it cannot buy the goods that our manufacturers have to sell. It cannot continue to meet its tax bills. It cannot...very well continue to exist as a self-sustaining component of American life. What is going to happen? Senator Borah asserts that this vast debt will either be scaled down voluntarily by the financial institutions which hold farm paper, or involuntarily “through foreclosures, bankruptcy and the remorseless grind of economic forces.”...For more than a decade the American public...has treated the farmers to a wealth of good advice...but it has calmly

permitted the farmer's state to get worse and worse, year after year...." (editorial, Sept. 30, 1932, p.4)

At this time the Hoover/Roosevelt presidential campaign took center stage in the newspaper.

A headline on Oct. 11, 1932, p.1: "State-Wide Meetings of Taxpayers; Associations All Over The Entire State Staged Demonstrations Yesterday; Overflow Meeting Held At Dover; Roxbury And Mine Hill Associations Also Staged Rallies" Meetings were held "in 115 towns and cities in New Jersey going on simultaneously last night....Roxbury...drew a capacity audience of over 200 persons."

"One of the most interesting developments of the depression has been the way in which certain great reputations have been deflated....There is, for example, Samuel Insull....until comparatively recently Mr. Insull was one of those public characters on whose words men hung with bated breath. He was a builder, a doer, a fantastically rich man, a master of men and machines and finance....The financial acumen, the foresight, the skill with which he had built up his industrial empire had served merely to erect a top-heavy edifice which went down with a terrible crash when a stiff gale blew....during the prosperous years we got into the habit of overestimating the value of financial jugglery....We assumed that our greatest men were those who knew how to do the most tricks with money and credit....The collapse of the Insull chain show that this business of pyramiding and interlocking industrial securities is strictly a fair-weather game....an oracle needs some recommendation other than the fact that he has been able to get rich by manipulating shares." (Oct. 13, 1932, p.4)

NETCONG -- "Sufficient funds have come in during the past week so that the Board of Education can pay the first half of the teachers' salaries for October..." (Oct. 18, 1932, p.1)

"Republican headquarters today charged John E. Bebout, professor at Dana College and Democratic candidate for the Assembly, as being instrumental in organizing protest and taxpayers' meeting throughout Morris County as a pre-election political expedient to confuse the voters on real issues and to capitalize upon discontent....Local Republican headquarters called attention ...to the fact that "taxpayers and protest" meetings with some regularity had preceded only by a day or so the large Republican rallies which were scheduled for the same localities. Particular attention was directed towards the organization of a taxpayers' protest meeting at Mendham... the protest meeting was addressed by several speakers, who, while admitting that the administration of the Borough of Mendham was praiseworthy, condemned administrative conditions generally throughout the county and state...." (Oct. 18, 1932, p.1)

October 18, 1932, p.4: "BEFORE POLITICS.

This editorial is reprinted from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE of October 13." "The space for this editorial, so striking in its significance to Morristown at this time, has been donated to the Morris Community Chest by Mrs. Shelton Pitney."

"...Perspective is a hard thing to keep at any time. It is particularly hard in a year of great suffering, when special drives for unemployment funds are necessary....The hospitals, the orphanages, the old people's homes...are carrying a heavier...burden as a result of the depression. Ask at any hospital, for example. The free cases—free because the patients are unable to pay—have more than doubled....There is not a charity which does not face this problem of an increasing burden and a decreasing income. Budgets are being pared to the bone. Every possible economy is being practiced. A certain percentage of contributors is inevitably

being lost because of lost jobs and stopped incomes. Thus, reliance upon those who can with an effort keep their subscriptions going becomes a matter of life and death....We ask that no sensational appeal and no excitement over political issues blind any one's eyes to this first, simple duty, as old as kindness and as young as hope."

Headline: "County Home For Children Saves Money; \$9,000 Being Returned To Board Of Freeholders President Toms Writes; To Close Year Well Within Appropriation; Population Of Home Is Greatly Increased But Costs Lowered". "This happy result is due to the economies practiced and the vigilance of the workers, who are always alert to see that no child is a county charge longer than is absolutely necessary..." (Oct. 31, 1932, p.1)

The editorial cartoon on November 4, 1932, p.4 is stark – a cohort of people labeled Relief Agencies and Community Chests led by Uncle Sam with a sword in his hand, facing a looming presence on the horizon, a gaunt elderly man in rags labeled Winter Want & Hunger. (Nov. 4, 1932, p.4)

"The Morris County Welfare Board...report...for the month of October....Old Age Relief...
Total applications—April 1st to October 31st.....540
Number of applications withdrawn, rejected, etc.....175
Number of applications not yet acted upon.....52
Number of persons receiving grants in October.....312
Average amount of grants.....\$15.91
Total amount of grants for October.....\$4,965.50" (Nov. 11, 1932, p.2)

"The big need of the world today seems to be the introduction into industry and commerce of some force as far-reaching and profound in its effects as was steam power when it was first brought into general use. No one who surveys the state of the world can fail to see the striking parallel which exists between these times and the distressed period that followed the close of the Napoleonic wars. Then, as now, all of the world's leading nations were trying to recover from a prolonged and expensive war. Man-power had been cut down at an appalling rate; government debts had soared almost to astronomical figures; trade was stagnant and every land had hordes of jobless men; British mobs surged through London streets exactly as they have been doing this fall, breaking windows and fighting with the police. There seemed to be no way out....The age of steam power was just dawning... .Factory production was enormously increased, new markets were found, new trade routes were opened—and presently a sick and discouraged world found that business was better than ever before, that the debts which had seemed so alarming could be paid easily, that the hordes of unemployed could be put to work at higher wages than ever before. The world situation today is strikingly like that of the post-war era following Napoleon's exile to St. Helena: so much like it that if you read a description of those days by a contemporary writer you will find it hard to believe that you are not reading something written in 1932. But what new force can we look to for salvation? Are we on the verge of introducing into our economy something as upsetting and revitalizing as steam power proved to be a century ago? Any genius who can inject such a factor into the tangled world equation today can expect to receive the ardent thanks of every nation on earth. (editorial, Nov. 11, 1932, p.4)

"More than 3,000,000 families throughout the nation were given relief...by the American Red Cross in the past winter...A major relief task, due to unemployment and other unusual conditions in the bituminous mining counties in twenty states, was met by the Red Cross chapters alone, or participating with other agencies. In these 143 counties, the Red Cross aided 90,000 families

through giving groceries, school lunches, clothing, flour and other necessities to combat privation.” (Nov. 11, 1932, p.9)

“At the annual meeting of the Morris County Children’s Home held yesterday in the Women’s Community Club...interesting facts were brought out....Since the beginning of this fiscal 76 new children have been added to the roster with a total of 278 children passing under care during the year....this period of financial depression has filled the Children’s institutions with children who could not find proper care in their poverty-stricken homes. A year ago 93 new children were admitted for care and 46 were discharged, with a net increase of 47 children. This year, perhaps the worst year of all financially, there were 76 new ones and 40 discharged, with a net increase of 36. Last year 22 or nearly 25% of the children admitted, came from tubercular homes. This year six, or 8%, came from tubercular homes....” (Nov. 11, 1932, p.10)

“ “Concentration of effort against common obstacles” is the keynote of the Community Chest idea. In no year since chests have been operating is this method more needed...than now. Depression, although waning, is yet a formidable enemy. Relief of individuals and families will be required during the coming winter to even a greater extent than formerly, owing to exhaustion of resources and slow rehabilitation of business. And, when the attention of the benevolent is so strongly attracted to the problems caused by human suffering, there is the especial danger that we may overlook the imperative demand for the maintenance of our regular institutions for character building and for community welfare....” (Nov. 12, 1932, p.1)

“How shall 500,000 bales of Farm Board cotton be converted into clothing for unemployed and needy, was an urgent question confronting the American Red Cross when Congress voted the raw cotton for that purpose to the Red Cross in midsummer....the Red Cross...by October 1 had distributed more than 30,000,000 yards of cotton cloth to more than half of the chapters or counties of the nation. Thousands of women volunteered to make the cloth into garments for school children, for men and for women. Dresses, underwear, men’s shirts, boys’ suits all came flying from the sewing machine. Following up the cloth, the Red Cross prepared to give men’s trousers, overalls, jumpers, boys’ knickers, underwear and stockings and sox for all the family....” (Nov. 14, 1932, p.12)

An article on Nov. 14, 1932, p. 12 attempts to explain the concept and operation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. “Not a dollar of real money passes through it....Yet the corporation has a capital of \$3,800,000,000. In seven months it has loaned about \$1,500,000,000....the corporation achieves with...paper backed by the vast credit of the United States government. It authorizes a borrower, whether a state, a big city bank, or a struggling building loan association, to draw upon the treasury. The treasury raises the funds by selling to investors its notes or certificates. It accepts from the corporation R.F.C. debentures, or promises to pay. When the R.F.C. ultimately collects the loans it has made, it will pay off these debentures. Meanwhile the R.F.C. holds as security for its loans the mortgages or other assets...it has taken from its borrowers’ collateral....A new branch is in process of creation to lend a hand to the farmer.....”

Employment and wages in New Jersey showed an improvement in September and October 1932. “The Dover area, with 21 plants reporting, showed an increase of 112, or 4.1 per cent in number of persons employed, and of \$8,723 in the amount of its total weekly payroll, with an increase from \$20 to \$20.02 in average weekly wages.” (Nov. 18, 1932, p.1)

“The overwhelming victory scored by Governor Roosevelt gives to that gentleman one of the heaviest responsibilities any American could be asked to shoulder....Now a government which undertakes to restrain booms and check deflationary processes is going to tread in some paths which make strange going for a capitalistic nation. It is going to have to do things within the capitalistic structure which never before looked possible. It is going to have to do some very extensive overhauling, and do it in such a way as to leave the major features of the old machinery intact....We have never before...really believed that the government had much to do with the prosperity or otherwise of the nation. We have believed that business was in one compartment and government in another, and that the division between them was about watertight. But the election says, unmistakably, that no government which permits a depression to occur can endure. Governor Roosevelt is given the task of finding out how to do the seemingly impossible...” (editorial, Nov. 21, 1932, p.4)

“The details of the national Share-the-Work Movement were explained to...industrial and business leaders...at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel....The Second Federal Reserve District has been divided into ten regions: Morristown being located in the tenth region....Those attending...from Morris County were: Ralph L. Gesner...Albert H. Holland...Kenneth W. Thompson...R.W. McEwan...Clyde V. Potts...Frank W. Hamilton...” (Nov. 22, 1932, p.1)

“The depression will in no way curtail the Thanksgiving Day feasts for the various state, county and local institutions....At Memorial Hospital, the patients and staff will enjoy an old fashioned turkey dinner with the trimmings. The Board of Managers of the Old Ladies’ Home has provided its usual Thanksgiving dinner with roast turkey and mince pie and the usual delicacies. A chicken dinner will be served at the State Hospital at Greystone Park....There will be 400 gallons of cream of tomato soup, 100 pounds of croutons, 5,000 lbs. chickens, 600 lbs. dressing, 130 gallons giblet gravy, 500 lbs. of apples for apple sauce, 20 barrels of sweet potatoes ... 2,000 stalks of celery...1,500 pounds of mince meat made into 5 lb. pies....Chickens raised at the Morris County Welfare House have been killed off for the Thanksgiving dinner at the Morris County Jail...A turkey dinner will be served at Shonghum Sanitarium...At the Welfare House, a roast chicken dinner...All Souls Hospital...turkeys with all the fixings...” (Nov. 23, 1932, p.1&2)

“The cost of Emergency relief in Morris County averaged \$.334 per person in the county during the past year...This per capita cost...shared by the State as well as the county and municipal governments, roughly compares to a municipal per capita cost of \$.005 in the last pre-depression year, 1929, when municipalities were able to bear the expense alone, and while this comparison is not a true barometer it is highly indicative of the increase in relief requirements....relief in Morris County, with a population of 110,445, cost approximately \$423,937 in the year ending October 1, of which the municipal and county share amounted to \$214,283 and the State share \$209,654. On a per-capita basis, the municipal-county share was \$.169 and the State share was \$.165. These figures do not include the cost of relief administration within the county....” (Nov. 25, 1932, p.11)

“A three-day food display will be held under the auspices of the American Home Department of the Boonton Woman’s Club...The exhibit will feature breakfast, dinners and suppers...featuring a low cost budget from \$5 to \$10 per week....This civic project should interest every home maker...everyone realizes that household budgets have suffered a reduction...” (Nov. 28, 1932, p.3)

“Fortune Magazine...declares...that a painful and critical unemployment problem is going to be with us even after good times have returned. The arch-villain...is that peculiar spectre, technological unemployment—the kind of unemployment that comes not because times are bad but because machinery does the work that men used to do....The magazine predicts that the mechanization of industry will continue, with even more striking displacement of human labor, in the future....a problem that will grow progressively more acute in years to come and that will be vexatious long after this depression has passed into history.” (editorial, Nov. 28, 1932, p.4)

“In the American Federation of Labor’s demand for nation-wide compulsory unemployment insurance, it is not hard to see a pretty clear indication that an era in American life has come to an end. The great period of rugged individualism...seems to be just about played out....By all our old traditions, a factory owner never had any more real responsibility for the welfare of his employes, outside of working hours, than he had for the hungry natives of Patagonia...that system...doesn’t work any more....the old day of complete freedom in the industrial world is ended.” (editorial, Nov. 29, 1932, p.4)

“All preparations are complete for the monster card party and entertainment at Morris Plains this evening. The affair will be held in the Borough School on Speedwell avenue and it has been organized and will be conducted by the allied societies of St. Vincent’s Church. The purpose... is to raise funds for the unemployed....Among the entertainers who have donated their talent for this worthy charity cause are Sylvester Banks of Bernardsville, the Morristown Quartet, Fred Boniface, Harold Myers, Charles Meys...and the two children of “Slugger” Newt of RockawayMany...prizes have been donated by St. Virgil’s parishioners...” (Nov. 30, 1932, p.12)

“BUY IN AMERICA. Our attention has been called by the Buy American Association to the fact that this year four out of five of all the Christmas trees in America will be lighted by miniature lamps made in Japan. Had American manufacturers been given this business it would have employed 2,300 men for an entire year....If Americans would patronize their own products they would give a winter’s work to three million men or practically minimize the depression.” (Nov. 30, 1932, p.14)

Dateline Washington, D.C.: “A few miles away from the great dome, some three thousand sullen and Communistic “hunger marchers” milled around their bare desolate open air camp, muttering imprecations against the Congress, the government and throwing taunts at the police who closely guarded them. No later than tomorrow, the marchers vowed, they are going to stage a demonstration in the capital grounds and present congress with petitions demanding \$50 for each unemployed worker, unemployment insurance and other measures of relief. If they attempt it there probably will be trouble.” This article was taken from the INS new agency, and it displays a tone seldom found in the Daily Record. (Dec. 5, 1932, p.1)

A picture of the “Hunger Army” appeared in the newspaper on Dec. 7, 1932, p.11, and the tone of the caption was quite different from that of the INS news agency: “The hunger marchers completed the objective of their long trek when they walked peacefully in rows between police to the Capitol where their leaders presented petitions to Vice President Curtis and Speaker of the House Garner, asking aid for the unemployed....”

“America is in the red by \$35,000,000,000. The national debt is \$20,000,000,000 and is still mounting. The states have a bonded indebtedness in the aggregate of \$2,374,987,294, and are still borrowing. Municipal, county and townships owe the other 13 billions. That would be a

staggering debt even in prosperous times for it is costing every man, woman and child in the country \$15 a year. The average cost per family is \$75. What a price for public extravagance!there can be no moratorium on these debts if prosperity is ever to return. Today both officialdom and public lament the refusal of the nation to heed the warnings issued by a few farsighted statesmen and economists at the height of the saturnalia of public and private extravagance and waste....the people danced; now they must pay the piper.” (editorial, Dec. 6, 1932, p.7)

“The Borough of Mendham is doing all it can to relieve the present unemployment situation by turning an old pond situated in Randolph township...into a reservoir....Part of the work, on which unemployed men of the Borough are employed, is the repairing of the dam, driving steel pilings in the gap and dumping dirt and cement on both sides of it. The work could more easily be done by steam shovels, but because some relief for the unemployed is necessary, the municipal officials decided to hire hand labor....The work is being financed by revenue from the sub-scribers of the system, who number around 300 families....A dispute arose at the institution of the present work on the reservoir, between the borough and the state on the latter’s share of the unemployment relief funds. Forty-five men are unemployed in the municipality, twenty-one of whom are working at the reservoir. The men worked one week, with the borough expecting the state to share the expenses, but because the men were not classed as dependants of the borough’s, the state would not pay the amount usually given to dependents. This forced the borough to stand the brunt of the entire expense which it is doing, paying approximately \$200 per week in wages. Each man is paid \$3 a day.” (Dec. 7, 1932, p.1)

“...the program meeting held in the afternoon at the home of Mrs. Thomas W. Caudwell by the Morris County League of Women Voters had several speakers. “Mrs. Channing Gilson, chairman of the Department of Legal Status of Women...explained that during the depression and unemployment, the work to make equality between men and women was being retarded. Many married women are refused jobs if their husbands are making money.” (Dec. 8, 1932, p.1)

“The Borough of Bernardsville has a large number of projects lined up, and in progress, for the benefit of its unemployed men. Two-hundred and sixty-seven men, at the present, are reported to be dependant on the borough....the municipality is apparently doing everything possible to see them thru the crisis. Since last September the borough, on its own decision, has not received any state aid for dependant relief whatsoever, and is standing the entire brunt of the expenses. Twelve men are employed in cutting wood...the money received from the sale of which, will go entirely to them....Nine more men are employed in landscaping the school property....Eighteen or 20 more men are to be hired for the work on the railroad plaza and a number more are working on the building of a road from the high school to the Morristown road...A milk fund of \$485 was recently created, for the purpose of supplying milk and sandwiches to the children of all the schools of the borough, including the Parochial schools....last month the borough expended approximately \$3,500 for the relief of its dependant families. A store has been open for some time near the center of the town where the poor of the region may go and obtain food and clothing free. A committee of 33 members...have been working heart and soul towards the assistance of the poor people of the place...” (Dec. 9, 1932, p.9)

Goodness of heart did not guide all during the difficult times. Work “on the Butler cut-off being built parallel to Route 23, between Smith Mills and Riverdale” was rife with labor favoritism. “in the future the State Department of Labor will be in charge of hiring men” because “Local chairmen have heard that men who reported have been “stalled off” and told to “come

tomorrow". At a meeting of the Passaic County administration in Paterson...Walter Vreeland, chairman of relief in West Milford, said one of the foremen on the job had told him the contractors wanted their own laborers and that the local men would be kept off the job all winter. Mr. Vreeland said he had sent a score of men to the job and that none had received work...." (Dec. 10, 1932, p.1)

"Twenty millions of Americans are directly or indirectly dependent on the charity resources of the country. These individuals represent unemployed workers variously estimated at from twelve to fifteen millions. One-sixth of the nation plays the great game of living at the bare subsistence level. Charity resources, family investigating, and social work cannot go on forever. Boats that are ripped open and caulked too often soon lose their integrity of structure.....Some balance must be reached between wages and hours of work on the one hand, and the number of potential jobholders on the other. (editorial, Dec. 12, 1932, p.4)

Presidential election returns concerned the newspaper. "the seven minor party candidates got... upward of a million votes. Of these the vast majority—more than 800,000—were cast for Socialist Norman Thomas....In 1928...all of the minor parties together polled fewer than 380,000 votes. Thomas got 267,000....And when you take into account the undoubted fact that in many machine-ruled cities thousands of Socialist and Communist votes simply were not counted at all, it becomes clear that radical strength increased very rapidly during the last four years....it does constitute a warning which those who guide the nation during the coming years must heed...." (editorial, Dec. 12, 1932, p.4)

In Madison, "teachers in the public schools met to consider whether or not they should continue to donate 10 percent of their salaries to jobless aid here. The action taken was not disclosed. When the teachers voted the salary donations last September, they stipulated that if the money sufficed in paying the cost of welfare relief, they would not donate a portion of their salaries after the first of the new year. Thus far the donations have totaled almost \$6,000 and, since many of the members of the faculty have had additional financial burdens many of them feel they cannot continue to make a contribution to borough relief work. The salary scale here runs from \$1,200 to \$3,000 for teachers." (Dec. 12, 1932, p.5)

The editorial cartoon on Dec. 13, 1932, p. 4 depicts a farmer getting bopped on the head by a huge bushel basket full of "mortgage foreclosures", "deflated land values", "high taxes", and "surpluses for sale below cost". A small figure in the background puzzles over a large piece of paper reading "farm relief?" with the Capitol dome in the distance.

"THE OMINOUS TREND" headlines an editorial describing the socialist and collectivist politics in Russia, Italy, Germany, England, and France. "America is the last stronghold of individualism, but even here the theory, that neither federal nor state governments should perform what private agencies might perform as well is losing ground. More and more government is going into business and not even its failures in agriculture and banking have stemmed the tide toward collectivism." (editorial, Dec. 14, 1932, p.4) [This editorial is atypical for the Daily Record in its tone.]

"The contributions of 10 percent of salaries of employees of the Madison Board of Education to borough employment relief will be discontinued after December 31...." (Dec. 15, 1932, p.1)

“Possibly as one result of the depression, the number of persons committed from Morris County to state institutions for the insane has been greater than in the past and the Board of Freeholders had to issue an emergency note of \$12,000 yesterday to cover a shortage in the Lunacy Account ...Director Stephen C. Griffith said that it was unfortunate when the county was trying to save funds to have this discrepancy but the board had no control over it. He pointed out that it would probably have to put up the same amount for 1933, making a jump of \$24,000 in this account including the extra money needed and the paying off of this temporary note.” (Dec. 15, 1932, p.4)

“The morning of chamber music for which Mrs. George Marshall Allen, of Convent, opened her home today as a benefit for unemployed musicians, filled an interesting and two-fold purpose as an occasion of social importance to Morristown. It lent the patronage of more than four hundred residents of Morristown, Madison and Convent to a worthy cause and it provided them with a morning of exceptional musical entertainment....The music...was rendered by the Biarritz Trio....” (Dec. 15, 1932, p.8)

The editorial cartoon on Dec. 17, 1932, p.4 is titled “The Giant Surveys His Work”, and depicts a mammoth man of riveted steel labeled “The Industrial Machine” standing over an endless snaking line of tiny undifferentiated people looking more like beetles on two legs, all heading to a small factory building labeled “Soup Kitchen”.

“While so many are rejoicing at the holiday season, there is one substitute home which is in need of friends—the Market Street Mission. In the history of the Mission, there has never been so many unemployed homeless men as this winter....There is an average of about 35 men a day sleeping in the comfortable well ventilated dormitories and partaking of wholesome food. A comparative statement of statistics for 1931-32 shows an increase of about 100 per cent for meals, lodgings, etc., over the previous year...” (Dec. 23, 1932, p.1)

“There is little or no real suffering among those classes whose chronic poverty make them periodic dependents on public charity even when there is work for all. Many of this type find the flop house, soup kitchen and bread line wholly satisfactory as long as there is no work connected with it. There is real suffering in homes to which unemployment and poverty are a new experience...Unless friends and relatives come to their aid they often go without food and fuel. How to reach this latter class is society’s greatest problem in the present emergency...Here is an opportunity of a lifetime for some sincere philanthropist.” (Dec. 23, 1932, p.6 editorial)

“Director Stephen C. Griffith, of the Board of Freeholders, told the Dover Taxpayers’ Association ...that the Board is using every effort to bring about a substantial reduction in the 1933 budget...he believed that a number of agencies such as the mosquito commission, farm demonstration, shade tree commission and Prosecutor’s Office could be reduced...the County Clerk, Surrogate and Sheriff’s Offices are self-sustaining through their fees. Expenses such as jury and election fees cannot be cut unless the legislature acts and there is not much chance of material reduction in care of the widows, orphans and hospitals....James Laughlin, speaking on the part of 11 municipal taxpayers’ groups throughout the county...stated that it was beyond the power of many taxpayers to fulfill their public obligations, and stated that county expenses have increased too rapidly for the relatively small population growth. In reply, Mr. Griffith claimed that inasmuch as 90 per cent of the county items directly under the control of the Freeholders are the result of public requests for improvements, no substantial cuts could be made until the taxpayers are really willing to forego certain advantages....” (Dec. 24, 1932, p.1)

“Efforts to stop trucking of anthracite coal from Pennsylvania mines to New Jersey consuming areas, have not ceased...” Unemployed men turned to transporting coal and were undercutting regular dealers at \$3 a ton. “In Dover, Morristown, Boonton and some other North Jersey communities public sympathy has been too strong for repressive measures aimed at individuals so situated.” (Dec. 28, 1932, p.1)

“Marked slashes in salaries of state, county and municipal officials and employees will be the aim of the 1933 Legislature which convenes on January 10....An order was drawn by the conference committee for the preparation of bills to permit county boards of freeholders to reduce or fix their own salaries, the maximum rate being their present pay....Measures permitting boards of freeholders to reduce salaries of all other officials or employees, including judges, sheriffs, county clerks, prosecutors and others...will also be supported by the Republican legislators...The provision for approval of the State House Commission...was decided upon to prevent either Republican or Democratic boards of freeholders from arbitrarily reducing the salaries of office holders of opposite political party. (Dec. 28, 1932, p.1)

“From the great cities come distressing tales of homeless men...Where do they come from? How became they homeless? Are they to blame? Is society at fault? Probably the majority of them...were too indolent, too lacking in concentration, to settle down in some job....Yet many of them started a wandering career as a result of a real hope to find work....These people must belong somewhere. Perhaps many...come from broken homes, many have not ties of any kindBut some...came away recently enough so they could claim help in the old home town... Humane sentiment says that even the most confirmed vagrant must be warmed and fed....Young men who contemplate wandering about the country should reflect that that path leads straight to Homelesstown....Stick at home, boys, where you belong, and if you are willing to work, you will get either employment or help.” (Dec. 28, 1932, p.4)

“More than 75 citizens, several of them members of the taxpayers associations of the county, crowded into the Freeholders’ room yesterday afternoon for the first of a series of informal discussions on the 1933 county budget...showing a cut of \$165,558.32 over the current year. A general discussion followed, taking up four hours and the meeting did not adjourn until six o’clock....Salary cuts in general were urged and the Engineers’ and Prosecutor’s Offices, Farm Demonstration, Mosquito Extermination , funds for the contagious hospital and a proposed new auto for the Sheriff were among the things generally attacked.....” (Dec. 29, 1932, p.1)

“A Cleveland firm has devised a new and interesting plan for keeping workers at work. This firm, making machine tools and astronomical instruments, has just as much stock on hand, already manufactured, as most firms. Fortunately it is not perishable or quickly obsolete. But this company decided to ignore those goods, or inventory, and operate as though their shelves were bare. When they get an order, they send it out to the shop to be made up new. Or if they fill the order from stock, they build a new machine to replace the one sent out. News that this firm is operating on such a plan has been circulated in its trade circle, and has resulted in orders that might not have come in otherwise, officials of the company believe. Several orders have been given on the express condition that the goods be manufactured new, thus making new work, and at least keeping men at work even if not employing new ones. Firms which fill orders from old stock are simply putting the proceeds into their coffers, the workmen’s share in them already having been distributed. The Cleveland scheme gives the worker his cut immediately....the Cleveland scheme, if extended to every firm that could possibly afford it, might keep employ-

ment up in the present emergency, and excess stocks then could be gradually absorbed when demand picks up....” (editorial, Dec. 29, 1932, p.4)

“Morris County finished its year 1932 in good financial condition, Treasurer Fletcher Fritts reported....Twenty-four of the municipalities, out of 38, had paid all their taxes in full....those, delinquent in paying their state taxes would be charged six percent interest....Mr. Fritts said that those who did not pay their state taxes might affect the receipt of state school moneys payable to the county...” (Dec. 31, 1932, p.1)