

Great Depression in Morris County, NJ July-December 1932

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 satisfactory....A 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 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 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 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 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 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 consequences....It 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 Same 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, 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 system 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, 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)

"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)

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)

“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)

“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)

“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 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)

“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)

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 over-estimating 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)

Dateline: 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 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)

“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)

“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)

“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)

“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 Rockaway....Many...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)

“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 subscribers 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. 13, 1932)

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)

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) [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 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, 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 kind....But 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 employment up in the present emergency, and excess stocks then could be gradually absorbed when demand picks up....” (editorial, Dec. 29, 1932)

“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)