

The Great Depression

*as seen through the pages of the [Daily Record](#) (Morristown, NJ)
January through March 1933*

“Extremely lively arguments...over the questions of salaries marked the organization meeting of the Board of Freeholders yesterday noon....the votes were split with the old members voting in a unit for the continuation of the status quo until such time as further conferences can be arranged and a general salary scale with a downward trend for all reached....The fireworks—and some one said it was more like the Fourth of July than New Year’s Day—started bright and early in the meeting...” (Jan. 3, 1933)

“Economy recommendations totaling \$14,013,000 are contained in the Princeton survey of State government, today submitted to Governor Moore....Every vital phase of State administration is dealt with in the report....Chief among the savings proposals are: Salary cuts, salary standardizations and personnel reductions....Slashed in the current operating expenses of the Highway Department, \$1,071,000. Debt service reduction of \$1,041,000 by refusing to issue \$16,337,000 of highway bonds and \$3,500,000 of institution construction bonds authorized but unissued....” (Jan. 3, 1933, p.1 and 11)

“When the United States Treasury offered \$250,000,000 one year certificates to the public a few days ago, with interest at the rate of only three-fourths of one percent a year, the issue was over subscribed 16 times. And yet not long, some issues of government bonds were selling to net over four per cent. This desire for securities that will be absolutely safe...is the result of the panicky feeling developed when the depositors of thousands of banks demanded their money right away....If bankers feel that they must have their money in such investments that they can produce a great mountain of cash all at once, naturally they aren’t going to lend their money to build houses with, or to finance factory operation, or to enable merchants to purchase goods. The public has greatly accentuated this situation, by runs on many banks that were perfectly sound....” (editorial, Jan. 3, 1933)

The editorial cartoon on January 3, 1933, p.4 depicts an overstuffed glutton labeled Congress sitting in front of a mounded plate of food labeled Excess Government Costs. With his right arm the glutton forks up a bagful of costs, dollar signs on the bag. With his left arm, labeled Economy, he is pushing the laden fork away. And to the side stands Uncle Sam with a critical look on his face.

“General revision of the State salary schedule would save \$3,209,000, and reduction of administrative costs in the highway department would bring economies of \$1,266,000, according to proposals advanced in the Princeton University survey of New Jersey’s governmental system. Personnel reductions...hold forth the possibility of an additional cut of \$1,600,000Complete overhauling of the pay schedule would be launched at the earliest possible moment.....” (Jan. 4, 1933, p.1)

“BY ORDER OF THE U.S. COURT THE ENTIRE BANKRUPT STOCK OF C. ROTHMAN, 52 SPEEDWELL AVE., MORRISTOWN IS RELEASED UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ACT AFTER BEING PADLOCKED UNDER LOCK AND KEY BY THE CREDITORS” (Jan. 4, 1933, p.5, full-page ad)

Morristown: The Board of Aldermen, holding its initial meeting for 1933...romped through its business in a steady manner....One of the initial steps...was to reaffirm its policy...of suspending all salary increases usually automatically provided for....” (Jan. 7, 1933, p.1)

“The Morris County salary cuts will be the same for 1933 as during the last half of 1932 and will range from two to ten per cent, according to salaries...Last year the cuts were for a six months period but this year they will be effective for the entire year and the saving will be about \$35,000Two-thirds of the employees of the county receive less than \$2,000 a year, there being 62 who get between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a year while 40 receive under \$1,000. Of those who get above this amount, a great many receive salaries fixed by the state legislature under which is commonly referred to as mandatory laws....” (Jan. 7, 1933, p.1)

“America’s farm population is growing. In spite of an agricultural depression that is both extensive and severe....the Department of Agriculture believes the total is not far below the record of 32,000,000 set...back in...1910. This, of course, is due chiefly to the depression—the industrial depression, not the agricultural one....For the man on the farm has one huge advantage over the man in the city...he is right at the source of the food supply....One wonders...how long this swing back to the farm will last....Living at the source of the food supply doesn’t help you much if a deputy sheriff comes along some day and puts you off because you can’t pay what you owe....” (editorial, Jan. 7, 1933, p.4)

“President Hoover’s committee on social trends...asserts flatly that a revolution in this country is by no means impossible....At first we all tried valiantly to pretend that there really was no such thing as a depression....We invented slogans such as “buy now”; we listened reverently while rich men told us that all would be well if everyone would stop worrying and go to work....The big development of the past year has been our growing realization that it would be dangerous for us to drift any longer....” (editorial, Jan. 9, 1933, p.4)

“Governor A. Harry Moore, still grappling with retrenchment, today requested the Legislature to limit departmental operating expenditures in 1933-34 to \$20,702,493—the lowest budget recommended since 1925....Governor Moore, by almost painless pruning, fitted department requests into the \$21,315,116 estimated income available, and there was \$607,623 to spare....Departments, which a year and a half ago clamored for appropriations totaling \$36,000,000 and received \$33,000,000, came forward...with requests for the coming fiscal period of approximately \$25,500,000. The Governor’s recommendations cut the requests \$4,815,645....” (Jan. 10, 1933, p.1)

“Governor A. Harry Moore presented in elaborate details a picture of the financial problems confronting the Legislature when he sent to that body his first annual message today. The document will probably stand as one of the most exhaustive discussions on public affairs ever given to a New Jersey lawmaking body....the message dealt with the economic phases of state, municipal and county government to the exclusion of almost every other topic. “I urge that acting together we work out a legislative program which will permit us to improve the operations of the state government,” declared the Chief Executive, “provide essential relief from confiscatory taxes and mandatory laws for counties and municipalities, make adequate provision for the feeding and care of our unemployed, bringing about real economies in the conduct of all of our public business, make possible the continuance of essential work of the state, balance our budgets, aid in the improvement of the financial and credit conditions of our local governments

and lighten the burdens and protect the interests of the whole citizenry of the state.” “ (Jan. 10, 1933, p.1)

“Pithy Statements By Governor In Message” contains the following: “Taxation, as I have said many times in the past, is a local problem. While the state has been spending more than a hundred million of dollars a year, counties and municipalities have spent at least four times as much. It should be clear, therefore, to the local taxpayers that his chief concern must be the financial program of his local government.” (Jan. 10, 1933, p.1)

Dover: “More than 100 former employees of the Ulster Iron Works were put to work yesterday morning at their plant here....many of them...had not worked in many months. The company announced that sufficient orders had been received to keep this force at work for some time and if the orders come in like they have been there is a possibility that the plant will be operating most of the winter....” (Jan. 10, 1933, p.3)

“The Sheriff’s Office made history yesterday when it had 21 sales of mortgaged properties— one-third larger than the highest previous total. The reason for the extra large amount which had Sheriff William N. Beach and his aids hopping was the fact that this was the first sales day in three weeks, there not having been any the two weeks previously owing to Christmas and New Year....” (Jan. 10, 1933, p.9)

“Advocates of sex equality are actively opposing every move to bar or remove from public jobs all married women whose husbands are employed, and the Federal Civil Service Commission is backing them up. Justice demands that as long as there is insufficient work to go around it should be apportioned among the greatest possible number...There would be no justice in dismissing a wife or husband where their combined incomes only provide the necessities of life. But there is real justice in closing the public trough to a family combine “eating” enough for two or three families....Public service theoretically involves some patriotism. The double pay envelope, with the exceptions given, is repulsive to true patriotism and real Christian unselfishness under existing economic conditions.” (editorial, Jan. 11, 1933, p.4)

“The third informal public hearing on the proposed county budget will be held at the Court House tonight at 8 o’clock and the main court room will be used. The hearing last week attracted a capacity audience, large numbers being unable to gain admittance, but the majority were out for the purpose of seeing some fireworks and excitement, in which they were not disappointed. Tonight’s meeting is expected to be much tamer and it is planned to hold the discussion to the subjects announced. Last week the talk wandered far afield from the matters originally brought up.” (Jan. 12, 1933, p.1)

Morris Plains: “The Borough Council at an adjourned meeting last night voted a ten per cent reduction on all salaries it pays...” (Jan 12, 1933, p.1)

“Another substantial reduction in the 1933 tax rate was assured last night when the Madison Board of Education introduced the budget for the school year 1933-34 effecting a reduction of \$33,115.03 in the amount to be raised by taxation for the year. The reduction has been made without cutting Madison school salaries....The savings are noted in every item of the budget...” (Jan. 12, 1933, p.1)

“Executing a sharp “about-face” which came as a shock to Court House officials, the Morris County Board of Freeholders...ordered drastic wage salary cuts for county employees ranging from 2 per cent to 17 ½ per cent. This unexpected action on the part of the Freeholders came close upon the heels of an unofficial announcement made on Monday that the wage deductions would remain the same as in 1932....The final decision to adopt the new wage scale, bitterly opposed by director Stephen C. Griffith and Freeholders William Spargo and Archibald S. Kirkpatrick...was not reached until after the board members had held a stormy session....The new scale is as follows: Two percent on salaries or wages of \$999 or less;...12½ per cent where salaries or wages exceed \$2,999 and does not exceed \$3,499;...17 ½ per cent on salaries or wages exceeding \$3,999.....” (Jan. 12, 1933, p.1)

“The Emergency Relief Administration is a State-wide organization set up to provide relief for persons thrown out of employment by the present depression. It is financed partly by State funds and partly by Municipal appropriations. State funds were previously raided by borrowing from the Teachers’ Pension, and recently have been secured by diverting \$20,000,000 from the State Highway appropriation set aside in 1929....There are 38 municipalities in Morris County, each with a Municipal Director and a local relief unit set up to care for all applicants in need. Applicants register at the headquarters in their communities and when found to be deserving, are given food orders ranging from 79 cents to \$1 per person per week. Fuel is also given during the win-ter months and occasionally clothing and medical aid. Rents are only paid in cases of dire necessity. Each man is asked to contribute a certain amount of work for Relief given and although there are exceptions, this request is generally complied with and is felt to minimize any feeling of charity....” (Jan. 13, 1933, p.3)

“The blithe stupidity with which some people can meet a profound social crisis is one of the most discouraging features of the depression....In Connecticut...there was a farmer who owed someone \$3800. He couldn’t pay it, so his creditor...got the farmer thrown into jail....At that time the farmer had fairly good prospects for the harvest season....But...his wife and two small children were left to look after things. The job was too much for them...and things went to pieces....The natural result, of course, is that the family today is utterly destitute. The farmer is still in jail—and the creditor, needless to say, hasn’t yet received a dime....” (editorial, Jan. 19, 1933)

An article by Eugene V. Welsh, identified as a “prominent real estate dealer”, explains the mortgage crisis. “Rates or price for mortgage money is governed by supply and demand...At the present time, there seems to be no supply at all of money to be loaned on local mortgages....The reason for most of the foreclosures that are now taking place is because these loans, when first made, were too high, or were not warranted at all. The ability of the borrower to pay the interest promptly is just as important as the security offered. Both accurate appraisals and personal responsibility of the borrower are the essential factors to consider when making mortgage loans....” (Jan. 19, 1933, p.1)

The picture at the center of page 3 on January 19, 1933 depicts a shellshocked-looking older man against a background of people holding placards of Alfred E. Smith for President. “Thirty odd years ago John W. Blake...wrote “The Sidewalks of New York,” a song of passing fancy until Alfred E. Smith adopted it as his campaign piece....Now Bake, 70, has lost his job, was dispossessed from his home, and finally had to trudge the sidewalks of New York seeking aid. Smith heard of it and used his influence to get aid for Blake, his sister and blind mother....”

“On the theory that business education for adults will do more to help end the depression as far as the retailers are concerned, than any other one single factor, the Morristown Chamber of Commerce cooperating with the Morristown Board of Education has arranged for a series of courses in retail business....These courses...will start with the subject of “Advertising”...” (Jan. 20, 1933, p.1) “An outline of the courses...has...been received....Lecture No. 1 How to advertise the retail store for profit in 1933....Lecture No. 2 Planning advertising today for future businessLecture No. 3 Writing advertising copy that will produce business in 1933....Lecture No. 4 Advertising space: how may it be used to best advantage?....Preliminary registrations indicate a very large attendance among whom will be many prominent Morristown businessmen.” (Jan. 24, 1933, p.12)

Boonton: “Enthusiastic endorsement of the plans of the Taxpayers’ Association, that the Board of Education further reduce the budget approximately another 20,000 by salary cuts over the \$44,741 which it adopted, was emphasized in no uncertain manner at a meeting of the association last night...which was attended by about 300 taxpayers....Frank H. Pearce, well known attorney and member of the executive committee of the association...spoke scathingly of the action of the Board of Education in adopting its budget the night following the last taxpayers meeting before any sentiment of the meeting of the evening previous could be expressed and with no notification to the public....” (Jan. 20, 1933, p.1)

Morristown: “The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen...will be marked by the introduction of the budget for 1933. It is expected that this will show a cut of at least \$50,000 over the amount raised last year....The Board has worked long and earnestly on the budget for the past month or more, burning the midnight oil on night after night, and has made slashes right and left.....” (Jan. 20, 1933, p.1)

“Years of easy prosperity followed by years of virtual helplessness from the highest to the lowest have worked a revolutionary change in the American psychology....A nation of rabid individualists, dependent on no one but themselves and upon nothing but their own initiative, enterprise and ambition, has become a nation of paternalists, who look to their government for everything. The very Americans who dread and hate communism most are acting like a lot of communists. Whether in high finance, business, agriculture, industry or overalls, they look upon the government as the horn of plenty and are in despair when the horn is empty.....There is a living for every normal man, woman and child in America and it only takes imagination and effort to win it. This is still the land of opportunity, a phrase never intended to denote an easy living or the get-rich-quick kind of opportunity....If there was ever a time when it should be every man for himself it is now.” (editorial, Jan. 20, 1933, p.6) The tone of this editorial indicates a different writer from usual having his say.

In Morristown, “An ordinance cutting \$61,000 off last year’s budget was passed by a five-four vote on first reading by the Board of Aldermen last night....With surplus revenue included the budget will be \$80,000 lower than last year.” (Jan. 21, 1933, p.1)

“The Morris County Board of Freeholders has adopted a new scale of salary reductions that does not increase the slices from small salaries but that jacks up the cuts out of the big salaries to a maximum of 17 ½ per cent. This announcement alone was sufficient to change the whole tenor of the last of the public hearings on the county budget...and even the most severe critics admitted that the Freeholders were evidently sincere in their desire to cut county costs. Most people, we think, will agree with Surrogate William Thompson’s statement that the small-

salaried employee should not be asked to bear the same burden as the officials who obtain as much as \$7,500 or \$8,000 a year.” (editorial reprinted from The Madison Eagle. Jan. 21, 1933, p.4)

“A Cincinnati bailiff had a job that required him to serve eviction notices on those who couldn’t pay their rent...the other day he had to serve an eviction writ on a sick mother and her three tiny children. They had no money and no fuel and were cowering in bed to keep warm. So this bailiff...paid their rent, bought them coal and some groceries—and then went down to the city hall and resigned his job....what makes this chap unlike the rest of us is the fact that he finally got so full of sympathy that he had to do something about it....And that is apt to make a reflective person wonder why it is that the sympathy of society as a whole has been so unproductive of similar definite action. We shake our heads over the plight of the jobless, and we give what money we can spare to charity; but we haven’t yet started any comprehensive program.... We shudder with horror when any-one even suggests any inflationary scheme. We chant our steadfast opposition to “the dole.” We keep on muddling along, in short, ready to pour out any amount of sympathy but strangely unwilling to put all our energy into the job of fixing things up.” (editorial, Jan.21, 1933, p.4)

“Drastic cuts in the Denville 1933 budget must be made if banks are to continue lending money for operating purposes...The banks...have given an ultimatum....Township employees, whose salaries were left untouched at the preliminary budget hearings, have been told they would be subjected to cuts from 10 to 20 per cent....Those under \$2,000 will get a 10 percent cut and those above, 20 per cent, if the plans go through. The lighting item left last week at \$8,000, is expected to be slashed in two. The present contracts with the New Jersey Light & Power Co....will be cancelled and a new contract within the proposed appropriation will be negotiated. Roads, which in the preliminary hearings were cut from a proposed \$20,600 to \$11,600, of which \$8,000 is for repairs, will get another paring....Suggestion that the police department of one paid man be discontinued is being frowned upon as elimination of lights in the lake and outlying sections would create a crime danger....” (Jan. 23, 1933, p.1) (see also , Feb. 2, March 31, 1933)

In Trenton, “A show-down on the pay cuts was looked for here today when members of the Legislative Committee on Economy and Re-organization met with Governor Moore and others interested in this phase of the Princeton Survey. The committee asked for the conference following the action of the Chief Executive last week in making it plain that he did not favor the schedule worked out by the Legislative leaders which provides for slashes being at 7 per cent for the lowest salaries and running to 20 percent as the maximum cut for those receiving \$11,500 a year and over....” (Jan. 23, 1933, p.1)

“The amount proposed to be raised by taxes in Morristown for the 1933 budget is the lowest in seven years as it has been over \$300,000 since 1928....Even if this is changed somewhat the total will still be far below anything since 1929. Alderman W. Parsons Todd...has compiled a series of figures showing the totals for the last 13 years. In 1920 the amount to be raised by taxes was \$164,925.66. This increased to \$235,366.03 in 1926, jumped to \$346,763.99 in 1929 and from there went to the high mark of \$385,046.21 in 1931. Last year it dropped to \$371,330.06 and this year is down to \$291,036.16....” (Jan. 23, 1933, p.1)

“A report of the Welfare Committee of Denville Township shows that more than 175 men in the township have registered for work. There are additional registrations almost daily. In the two

weeks just ended food has been provided thru the committee for 181 individuals and it is expected that the number may exceed 200 in the next two weeks.” (Jan. 24, 1933, p.2)

Page 3 of January 24, 1933 features a drawing by the famous illustrator James Montgomery Flagg stating “Half-Time For Two Workers Is Better Than No Time For Two Workers!” showing a fashionably dressed young woman holding a clock split in half.

“When will Washington awake to the fact that the country is in a state of economic collapse, financial deflation and corporate and individual bankruptcy? When will the politicians and jobholders in the national capital, who seem never to have heard of the depression, learn that the reason the federal government is going into the red to the tune of two billions a year is because the tax burden is greater than the public can bear?...the United States commissioner of education [proposed] that a manufacturers’ sales tax be levied on the people to add a federal department of education to the already superabundance of departments, bureaus, commissions and jobs....The commissioner of education seems to be entirely out of step with the times....If there was ever a cause lost before it got started it is the cause of the advocates of the nationalization of education.” (editorial, Jan. 24, 1933, p.4)

Denville: “George M. Denny, who is the president of the local Chamber of Commerce...offered 20 acres of his land for gardens for the unemployed this summer....M. Hyde of New York and Denville...offered 17 acres of land for this purpose, located near Bald Hill. The Civic Association last night went on record as backing up the Welfare Committee’s plan of having the unemployed raise their own vegetables this season, not only for their food for the summer but to... carry them over for next winter...” (Jan. 24, 1933, p. 5)

“While the sum of \$8,000 has already been donated and pledged to the Dover Unemployment Relief Committee..., the goal of \$15,000 may not be reached according to Mayor Roach and Commander Samuel Chiles, chairman of the Relief Committee....if more families are added to the already large number, this amount may not suffice.... Commander Chiles said, “These people are our neighbors.” “They are seeking employment to earn an honest dollar, but jobs cannot be obtained. What shall they do. People who have enjoyed comfortable homes through their own efforts are now forced to ask for aid. Place yourself in their position. You are only asked to share part of your earnings with them.” “ (Jan. 24, 1933, p.12)

“Branding as virtually criminal the summary dismissal of employees, Highway Commissioner Abraham Jelin...adopted a motion by the Highway Board to give part time work to all those affected by curtailment in the road building program....Approximately 500 employees will be affected and the new arrangement is to be planned...so as to benefit a score of resident engineers and others who were notified that their services would not be required after next week.” (Jan. 25, 1933, p.1)

“Attorneys of the county will be asked to co-operate in helping keep down court expenses and thus saving money for the county and the taxpayers as a result of a resolution passed by the Board of Freeholders yesterday....There was considerable delay last year, which resulted in extra expense to the county thru having to pay jurors, due to lawyers not having their cases prepared....Freeholder Howard F. Barrett said he was only too glad to second it as he knew of times when lawyers had not been on their jobs....” (Jan. 26, 1933, p.1)

Denville: "Township employees, whose salaries were not cut at the two preliminary hearings will be cut from 10 per cent to 20 per cent it was disclosed. Those under \$2,000 will get a 10 per cent cut and those above, 20 per cent. A cut of \$952 has been made in the salaries in the Water Department...the salaries of the...five members of the township committee who now receive \$400 each will be cut about 10 per cent. It was announced that \$2,800 had been cut in the amount to be raised by taxation for school purposes by the Denville Township Board of Education. This cut will be made from the salaries of the school teachers whose salaries heretofore had been left untouched..." (Jan. 26, 1933, p.1)

"The Reconstruction Finance Corporation's proposal to have the government underwrite resumption of full 1927 industrial production seems to prove once more that it takes an ultraconservative to make a really radical suggestion...What, now, becomes of that time-honored chant about keeping the government out of business? When Uncle Sam guarantees the industry of the whole nation against loss, and stands to pocket a percentage of any profits industry may make, he is in business up to his neck, any way you look at it. And yet, for all the criticism that can be raised against the plan, it is encouraging to see it put forward. At the very worst it is at least a positive, definite scheme for coping with an intolerable situation..." (editorial, Jan. 26, 1933)

"The proposed changes in salaries to be made by the majority members of the Board of Aldermen [Morristown] to conform to the budget as passed on first reading at the last meeting...was announced today. These changes set new salaries for all town employees and is not a percentage deduction as was put into effect last year..." "Proposed Cuts in Salaries of Town Workers" include the following:

Board of Aldermen

Town Clerk Butera--past salary \$4,000.00; proposed \$3,025.00

Department of Health

Nurse Rauter--past salary \$880.00; proposed \$740.00

Fire Department

Driver Cavanaugh--past salary \$2,300.00; proposed \$1,750.00

Police Department

Sergeant Earle--past salary \$2,600.00; proposed \$2,080.00

(Jan. 27, 1933, p.1)

"Denville: Welfare Work was the chief item of discussion at the monthly business meeting of the Women's Republican Club...Mrs. Adrienne Conybeare, chairman of the Welfare Work in the Township reported that John R. O'Connor, of Denville park offered 100 lots for the use of the unemployed for gardens this coming season and that Everitt Vanderhoof of Manor road had also offered a piece of property for this use...Volunteers for taking charge of the Welfare Room in the old school building during the month of February were asked for...This work consists of spending one afternoon a week for the month's period in the Welfare Room, receiving requests and distributing supplies to the needy....it seems quite a task to get the ladies to take this active part..." (Jan. 27, 1933, p.2)

"it has been proposed to congress in all seriousness that the United States declare a state of war and spend billions on preparations for war to cure the economic septicaemia...David Q. Hammond wants congress to build the navy up to treaty strength..., to enlist a million jobless men in the army, navy and marine corps, call all unemployed reserve officers to active duty and throw billions into the purchase of munitions, uniforms, equipment and the other paraphernalia

of war. Where would the government get the money for all this? Why through the sale of “national security loan bonds.” No more near-sighted and suicidal scheme has been proposed for ending the depression....The government must get out of debt instead of further into debt... More money must go into constructive effort instead of into destructive effort....” (editorial, Jan. 27, 1933, p.4)

“Nearly three and a half millions persons who did not have to file an income tax return last year must do so this year....Lowering of exemptions for both single and married persons means these new taxpayers will be gathered into the fold this year. The stiffest increase in tax rates in the peace-time history of the nation means that far more tax must be paid on the same amount of income....One of the most important changes is that limiting the amount of deduction for losses in the sale of stocks and bonds....” (Jan. 30, 1933, p.4)

“There is little consolation for the United States in knowing that the rest of the world is no better off economically, but in setting about to correct conditions at home it is necessary that the American people be thoroughly conversant with conditions abroad. As long as America trades with the rest of the world its prosperity will hinge partly upon world prosperity. Department of commerce agents have just ascertained that world trade is the same the world over. Uncle Sam is losing foreign customers, but so has every other country and in about the same proportion. Exports of all the major countries engaging in foreign trade are just about a third of what they were at their peak. So it would appear that the trouble lies deeper than tariff wars, embargoes, boycotts, buy-at-home campaigns and other artificial trade barriers. The world-wide depression is not merely a phrase. There is no longer such a thing as economic isolation for any civilized nation....” (editorial, Feb. 1, 1933, p.4)

Morristown: “The biggest budget cut made...by any governing body in Morris County was announced by the Board of Education....It shows a reduction of 30 percent over last year’s budget....The continuation of the deductions of five to ten percent in teachers’ salaries, plus the amount of surplus revenue, thru savings affected last year, largely account for the big slash in the school figures....” (Feb. 2, 1933, p.1)

“The Denville Township Committee after rescinding its first budget... adopted and passed on first reading a new budget amounting to \$63,106.51 as compared with \$78,540.59 for 1932.... Severe cuts made at the request of the banking officials...include the elimination of police protection in Denville Township and the doing away with a special building inspector, it being decided to have the engineer of the township assume the duties of the inspector along with his own....the cutting of the lighting system appropriation in half...from \$8000 to \$4,000. The same action occurred in the amount for roads. Only \$200 has been appropriated in the new budget for police, it being contended that this amount will pay Police Chief Benjamin Kinsey for the past month’s salary. It is the contention that the state police will be able to take care of the police work here....Calvin Lawrence, chairman of the committee, told of the conference held yesterday with the banking officials, who had previously declared they would not finance the township if the municipal and school budgets were not slashed, stated that the doors of the banks will be closed to Denville if the requirements are not met and Denville won’t be able to borrow any money. He went on to further state that the action of the Board of Education in cutting the salaries 12% had been reported and that the bankers had declared that this was not enough....” (Feb.2, 1933, p.1&3)

“A big joint meeting was held last evening at the Whippany Fire House by the committee of the Whippany Fire Company, Cedar Knolls Fire Co. and The American Legion Post 155 for the purpose of getting organized for their biggest welfare drive of the year. The following letter... will be mailed out at an early date. To the Residents of Hanover Township: Some of the people in our community, through no fault of their own, are in great need.... we do wish to take this opportunity to point out that upon those who have been more fortunate than others rests the great responsibility of providing for the residents of Hanover Township, insofar as it is within our means to do so. We can greatly assist those who are in need by donations of clothing, foodstuffs, or money....” (Feb. 3, 1933, p.1)

“America is going primitive. The depression has deprived millions of civilization’s medium of exchange, compelling them to revert to simple barter and crude substitutes for money. Barter exchanges numbering 140 are known to be operating in the United States....Through them the moneyless exchange labor for goods and goods for goods. Without benefit of these exchanges hundreds of thousands of men and women are exchanging what they have for what they need. Chicago’s municipal government has been using scrip for money in paying off its employes for two years and other governmental subdivisions have had to resort to this modern substitute Scrip...is worthless without faith in the ability of the issuer to pay when the final reckoning comes. If accepted in lieu of money by everyone, it would be as good as money....” (editorial, Feb. 4, 1933, p.4)

Denville: “A feeling of resentment against the action of the Township Committee in failing to include funds for police protection in the budget...has been aroused and it is probable that a demand will be made at the hearing Thursday night that Chief of Police Benjamin Kinsey be retained....Officials of the Fire Department, of which Kinsey was an organizer and first chief, have joined the movement for his retention. They will tell the Township Committee Thursday that if funds are not available from other items, part of the \$1,882 included for fire purposes may be diverted toward the chief’s salary. The firemen are calling to the attention of citizens that Kinsey was one of three who signed an \$18,000 note which enabled the volunteer department to purchase its first piece of apparatus.... Purchase of the equipment and formation of the department lowered insurance rates in the township considerably they assert...Appropriations for lights, visiting nurse, building inspector and seal-coating Denville Center roads also met the fate of the police item, and the road repair budget was cut in half....” (Feb. 6, 1933, p.1)

“Another issue before the country today is whether private enterprises which are unable to meet honest competition shall be considered the charity wards of the nation....Sick railroads are demanding a curb on trucks and buses which serve the public with greater efficiency....For the government to place handicaps on the efficient for protection of the inefficient is to attack that American efficiency which has effected economies making it possible for the United States to compete in world markets. Great business enterprises succeed only when they meet the public demand for cheaper and better goods or service. In the business world competition should be free, in order that the fittest should be free; and then the fittest should be held to strict account by the government to prevent monopolistic exploitation.” (editorial, Feb. 6, 1933, p.4)

“Figures presented in a monthly report of the U.S. Commerce Department show that while labor’s income has been slashed terrifically, capital’s income has undergone nothing approaching an equal shrinkage....these figures show pretty clearly just who it is that is paying for the depressionThe wages of capital have not suffered anything like the deflation that has hit the

wages of labor. You might remember that, the next time someone sounds off about how we're "all poor together." " (editorial, Feb. 8, 1933, p.4)

"A Morristown branch of the National Child Labor Committee has been organized...in...efforts to keep children out of industry and in school....According to the 1930 census, New Jersey...had more children employed in manufacturing than any other state in the Union except Pennsylvania, New York and North Carolina. Many are working in dangerous occupations, grievously exploited at incredibly low wages. "All over the country...boys and girls are employed, although millions of adults are looking for jobs in vain. It is nothing short of criminal to permit immature children to leave school and compete in the labor market. The jobs should go to the family breadwinner and the children should stay in school." The three outstanding child labor problems in New Jersey are the employment of children and young persons in the sweat shops...in which hours are long and wages are at starvation level; the increase in industrial home work, in which child labor is always an important factor; and problems of migratory child labor in the berry and truck farms of southern Jersey...." (Feb. 8, 1933, p.5)

"County Counsel John M. Mills, who acts as Township Counsel, Township Clerk Frank J. Howell and members of the Township Committee were severely criticized by irate speakers at the meeting of the Rockaway Township Taxpayers' Association last night. The meeting...drew a capacity throng of homeowners. It was indignantly charged that the Township Committee had been illegally organized, and that the relief funds are being wasted. Mills was accused of giving the taxpayers "a run around" when they sought information on the budget. The main surprise was sprung when it was flatly stated that the budget, instead of being lower than last year, was actually higher. The accusation was made that Howell uses taxicabs at the public's expense, the bills being paid out of relief money. He is paid \$80 a month to direct relief work and it was charged that an assistant, at about half the salary, does the work....An appropriation of \$15,000 in the budget for road purposes was declared too much in these times and it was held that \$9,000 would be sufficient....It also was charged that the road work was not being equitably done throughout the township...." (Feb. 9, 1933, p.1)

"Reduction of the amount which the state contributes annually to the State Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund is now the aim of the Legislative Committee on Education. With the teachers and the state each contributing to the fund—roughly on a fifty-fifty basis, the committee has before it the proposal that the former be asked to contribute 60 and the state 40 per cent...." (Feb. 9, 1933, p.1)

"No more \$5 per day for jurors, no more meals paid for by the county and no more giving out of printing orders by departmental heads until the Freeholders' committee approves. Such are among the economy moves in the county...." (Feb. 8, 1933, p.1)

Morristown: "The Board of Aldermen met in secret conference for nearly five hours last night when it received a report from the Citizens' Committee on salary revision....Last night's session was behind closed doors and continued until 1 o'clock this morning. The heads of the various departments with the town clerk and counsel were on hand but all were excluded from the secret conference and they hung around until 10:30 when a member of the board came out with word that they might as well go home. Newspapermen, informed of the meeting as a special session, were on hand but they and spectators were speedily shown the outside of the closed doors." (Feb. 9, 1933, p.1)

“During the past few months there has been a noticeable increase in high school attendance and this has resulted in practically every school being filled to capacity. It is largely due to an emergency condition, the depression, with many continuing in high school because they can find no work to do...” (Feb. 9, 1933, p.1)

“A net loss of 54,796 telephones and a revenue reduction from each telephone in service averaging four dollars for the year 1932 were reported by Chester I. Barnard, president, to the stockholders of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company in the Company’s annual statement made public today....The annual dividend rate on the Company’s common stock was reduced from eight per cent to seven per cent during the last three quarters of the year, but despite the reduction it was necessary to draw on the Company’s surplus for \$1,888,957 to pay dividends.” (Feb. 9, 1933, p.5)

“The search for gold is now being carried on at high speed....gold is scarce and its purchasing power is high. In consequence prospectors are in the field in large numbers; old gold mines, abandoned because of poor yields, have been reopened and are proving profitable again; the gold centers of the world are unusually active; and gold stocks have reversed the trend of the market, going up instead of down....the United States...ranks third in gold production in the world...unemployment in the western states, particularly in California and Colorado, has sent a small army of the idle, armed with picks, shovels, pans and sluice boxes, into the mountains and valleys. One expert of the bureau of mines estimated that 100,000 men are now engaged in such labors, as compared with perhaps 1,000 before the economic whirlwind hit the country....” (Feb. 9, 1933, p.9)

“Morris County school boards will raise almost \$350,000 less by taxation for the 1933-34 school year, starting July 1....Thirty-one of the thirty-seven municipalities show decreases with the three large towns leading the way while the increases are in the small communities....Kinnelon has the biggest jump of any municipality, raising its amount from \$4,950 to \$7,770...” (Feb. 10, 1933, p.1)

The annual report of the County Welfare Board for 1932 appeared on Feb. 10, 1933, p.3. “The main service we render the municipalities is... represented...by the great amount of time we spend working over the problem cases which they refer to us....Old Age Relief...applications...rained down upon us and each application required an exhaustive investigation, an average of at least 8 visits, and numerous letters and telephone calls....The proper administration of relief attempts...to keep out undeserving cases in the beginning; but also to maintain its flexibility by discharging cases as soon as they no longer need public assistance, thus making room for new cases to be admitted without increasing too rapidly the total amount spent for relief....” (Feb. 10, 1933, p.3)

“It seems probable that Denville Township will be the first in Morris County to use script... within the past six months more than 150 groups scattered through about thirty states have organizations to carry on this swappingThe system is as follows: a one dollar script is given out by the proper official, and each user of that script, when using it in trade, affixes a three cent stamp, and when the script contains thirty-six such stamps, representing \$1.08 in actual money, the scrip is redeemable by the town. The extra eight cents pays for the cost of the printing and handling....” (Feb. 14, 1932, p.1)

“Say what you will about Mr. Roosevelt’s scheme for power development, reforestation and agricultural reclamation in the Tennessee valley, it is at least a comprehensive and ambitious long-range plan—and, as such, it comes to a bewildered country very much like a breath of cool fresh air.... one of the most dismaying aspects of the depression has been the kind of paralysis that has rested on the American spirit...Our energy has slumberednow, at last, we are offered a plan—and a big one. It may not be the best plan possible; it may even be a very bad one. But it is at least something definite and far-reaching....” (editorial, Feb. 14, 1933)

“Branch 13 of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers declared a strike last night against the Boonton Full Fashioned Hosiery Mill....A statement regarding the strike issued by C.R. Cook, secretary of the branch, said: “This action was necessary on account of a drastic wage reduction, ranging from 27 to 50 per cent below the union rate. We wish to call attention that the union rates now in effect are 40 to 65 per cent below the 1929 standard....” (Feb. 16, 1933, p.1)

Whippany: “The Township Committee members cut their salary on a basis of ten percent of the year’s total with the provision they shall not get more than \$360 for the year. The members now get \$5 a day for each day they work. The other slashes, ranging from ten percent up, were: Collector, \$1,300 to \$800; clerk, \$900 to \$810; treasurer, \$300 to \$270; auditor, \$300 to \$270; auditor, \$300 to \$250; recorder, \$350 to \$300; attorney, \$250 to \$225....” (Feb. 16, 1933, p.1)

Morristown: “A new scale of salaries, lower from six to ninety-eight percent than the present pay rates, was adopted for all town employees by the Board of Aldermen last night....During the past year there was a percentage deduction ranging from seven and a half to fifteen percent but this year... from 18 to 25 percent and all wages are on a flat basis, set for this year only under the special ruling passed by the Legislature...” (Feb. 18, 1933, p.1)

“Following verbal protest and petitions, the Mt. Olive Township Committee failed to pass the ordinance abolishing its police department but it did cut the salary of its police chief in half at its meeting last night. It did pass the ordinance abolishing the Township Fire Department, which is the Budd Lake Company....There was plenty of protest on the ordinance eliminating the fire department although it would appear that shortly a new department would be created to take in the Flanders Company as well as Budd Lake as Flanders was not previously included.....” (Feb. 18, 1933, p.7)

“Instead of the usual stereotyped talk on legislation, Duane Minard, Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, who was the speaker at the February meeting of the Morris County Women’s Republican Club...took up in turn the rescinding of certain mandatory laws, fiscal control bills and recommendations of the Princeton Survey...and the financial condition of the state....In speaking of the relief from mandatory laws...Mr. Minard summarized those which had passed including a bill allowing school boards to reduce the salaries of officers and employees in school districts..., giving boards of freeholders permission to reduce mandatory appropriations to the same extent to which they reduce items under their control, and giving municipalities the same right, thus making it possible to pare budgets....The bill to reduce the salaries of sheriffs failed because the lobby was too strong, he said.....The Princeton Survey he described as a theory to have the state government harmonize with a business corporation....if the theory is adopted and the Governor is to be made the central figure to have full power he must be given full power....he declared the American people haven’t learned anything in 150 years. They still elect a man on his promises without really knowing what he will do. One reason for lack of

faith, is because of the class of appointments made lately have been so deplorable that the people have no confidence.....While the state of New Jersey's debt is limited to \$100,000 and may not go beyond that figure without a referendum there is no such check put on municipalities. In some municipalities where the taxes couldn't be collected, the municipalities simply went out and borrowed on tax anticipation notes to the extent of 40 per cent.....There are so many ways that the budget can be reduced that it is a shame, he said, that the rank and file, efficient, conscientious people who never got any increases following the war, yet now must take their cuts. Not justifiable, sensible cuts but large cuts while others are still getting fat salaries....." (Feb. 25, 1933, p.2)

"The country is full of pessimists predicting everything from revolution to wholesale starvation. Many of these never expect to see good times again.....Men and women, who have gone through other depressions, describe this one as all the others rolled into one. It may be but the human memory is notoriously unreliable and especially prone to forget the dark pages in life's history" (editorial, Feb. 25, 1933, p.4)

"The revelation that Samuel Insull and members of his family were able to make a paper profit of \$25,000,000 on a single transaction in one of the Insull investment trusts is a bit of news that ought to be engraved on stone somewhere and preserved for reference after the depression is over....It is a little bit hard to remember that there actually was a time when such things did happen....With any kind of luck, another four years will bring us to a point where such things once more are possible. And when that glad day comes we ought to consult the stone tablet, do a little thinking, and see to it that such shenanigans are prohibited....The general mass of people in this country have never quarreled greatly with the theory that it is necessary to hang up very large rewards for achievement in the world of business and industry....But a stunt of this kind is something else again....This simple twist of the wrist by which a few insiders profited \$25,000,000 on the flotation of a new security issue is not the sort of thing that belongs in any sound economic order...." (editorial, Feb. 25, 1933, p.4)

Summit: "City officials have been asked to consider a proposal of "services for unpaid taxes" made by the Summit Mutual Exchange, the first functioning barter center to be established in northern New Jersey....there has been opposition from D. J. Fitzpatrick, Carpenter's Delegate of Morris and Union counties who expressed his disapproval of the barter system...." (Feb. 28, 1933, p.1)

"Mrs. G. R. Conybeare...chairman of the Welfare Committee of Denville Township, has reported that there are now 50 families being cared for here. About 3,500 pounds of Red Cross flour have been distributed since January 1st and many articles of clothing which have been made by various individuals and clubs have been distributed to the needy....." (Feb. 28, 1933, p.2)

"The governors of Tennessee and Kentucky today declared bank holidays in their states....In Kentucky...No more deposits are to be paid out by banks today and no more than 5 per cent of deposit is to be paid Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There was a hitch in the plans for banks reorganization in Detroit....The bank holiday in Maryland was extended another day...West Virginia...Nevada...Ohio...Pennsylvania...At Washington, the internal Revenue Bureau announced that bank holidays would not be accepted as an excuse for failure to pay income taxes due March 15." (Mar. 1, 1933, p.1)

“When Gov. John G. Winant of New Hampshire declared the other day that men who attempt to block measures for the public good in times like these are guilty of treason, he uttered an axiom with which practically everybody will agree. The only thing that complicates matters is that it is so hard to get men to agree on precisely which measures are for the public good and which ones are not. Governor Winant, of course, realizes this as well as any man. His chief point was... party politics should be disregarded, as far as possible, in seeking a solution....there are uncounted public servants who have a very sincere and earnest wish to do whatever may be necessary to get the nation back on its feet....And yet, so far, they have not been able to agree on any broad platform to lift us out of our troubles...” (editorial, Mar. 1, 1933, p.4)

“**Morris County Emergency Relief Administration** (This is the first of a series of articles upon the Emergency relief problem) by Leonard Lathrop....The number of unemployed and their dependents receiving means of subsistence through the Morris County Emergency Relief Administration rose to a new high of 6,459 in January, an increase of 840 over DecemberThe same condition exists throughout the State. During January 1,900 people a day were added to New Jersey’s relief roster and 55,000 more were included in a total of 428,093 receiving state and local subsistence” (March 2, 1933, p.6) [428,093 is slightly more than the population of all of Morris County in 1990, which was 421,353]

“**Iowa Town Barbers Scrip For Corn**” is the title of a photograph on p.11 of the March 2, 1933 Daily Record. The caption reads, “Piled high in temporary cribs, corn literally filled the streets of Clear Lake, Ia. Farmers brought it in, 8668 bushels of it in one day, responding to a plan of the Commercial Club. The club buys the corn, giving 25 cents a bushel in scrip certificates, which are exchangeable for goods in the local stores. The merchants hope later to auction off the corn for money.”

“The delicate situation in which all banks find themselves nowadays cause runs to start very easily, often brisk business which shows the bank is in fine financial condition causing rumors which bring about the runs.” (Mar. 3, 1933, p.1)

Dover: “Street, police and other departmental employees have been contributing two per cent of their salaries for some months, in lieu of straight wage slashes. Mayor Roach is known to prefer increasing these, rather than cutting wages....The Board’s failure to reduce wages has been responsible for unfavorable comment, in view of 10 per cent cuts accepted by school employees and 15 per cent reductions applied to the water department....” (March 3, 1933, p.1)

“**Bank Restrictions in 20 States**” is a boxed listing on p.3, March 3, 1933. Among those states is New Jersey. While only a few banks were closed, they were all under emergency laws “with moratoriums or...restrictions on withdrawals.”

On March 3, 1933, p.3, “the 2nd of a series of articles upon the county relief problems” appeared. “The Emergency Relief Administration funds are provided through a joint arrangement of State grants and municipal appropriations. The State funds for the present relief program were obtained by the diversion of twenty million dollars from bonds previously authorized for highway construction to unemployment relief. This was approved by the voters of the State, by referendum,...so great is the need, the funds probably will not meet relief requirements for more than a year. The State funds are distributed through the County Relief Administration to municipalities once a month. Under the “normal grant” plan, municipalities of 10,000 or less must first appropriate an amount equal to ten cents a person of the population before receiving

State aid. The State then will add an amount equal to ten cents a person and thereafter will contribute fifty per cent of additional appropriation so long as the combined total does not exceed forty cents a person....”

On March 4, 1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated as President and the world changed overnight.

“**New Jersey And New York Banks Closed to Tuesday**” (Mar. 4, 1933, p.1) “Bank holiday spread rapidly over the country today bringing restrictions...to all but seven of the states.... Governor Moore of New Jersey decreed a 2-day mandatory holiday for his state....The Federal Reserve Banks of New York and Philadelphia followed the action of their states. The Federal Reserve closing kept withdrawing of gold of both foreign and domestic agencies. All stock and commodities exchanges in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and St. Louis closed for the period of the holiday which was generally for 2 days....Western Union limited all money orders to \$100....”

“The sudden closing of the banks, without a moments notice, on a Saturday morning has a wide-spread local effect as there are many firms which pay in cash and get their payrolls on a Saturday morning. It means that employees of these firms will be without pay until Tuesday. Deposits in the postal savings accounts have been growing quite steadily here recently, due to the general banking situation throughout the country. Even one chain store organization was putting its money into the postal savings.” (Mar. 4, 1933, p.4)

dateline Newark: “The Howard Savings Institute, on which a run was started due to false rumors, immediately met all demands on it yesterday and had more than \$11,000,000 in cash ready for any demands. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation offered it \$20,000,000 to meet the emergencies but this was refused as the bank was in fine financial condition. The doors were kept open late to serve the patrons. Wynant D. Vanderpool, of Morristown, is President of the bank.” (Mar. 4, 1933, p.4)

On March 6, 1933, page 1 front and center, the Daily Record placed a cautionary editorial at the top center of its front page. “**MUST KEEP SANE...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself**”—President Roosevelt, March 4, 1933.... “**Every day, every hour may be the turning point in our country’s future. It is up to each and every one of us to put fear of fear out of our minds.**”

“Morristown banks, originally scheduled to reopen tomorrow morning after the two day holiday proclaimed by Governor Moore, will stay closed until at least Friday in conjunction with all banks throughout the United States as a result of the proclamation issued by President Roosevelt as one of his first official acts last night. In the meantime the President is conferring today with the Governors of the states on the new steps in meeting the financial crisis....The use of scrip to meet the situation is being considered. The President’s proclamation virtually put the nation on a scrip basis...” (March 6, 1933, p.1)

“One thing that must be remembered in a crisis like the present is that the feelings of the individual will have to be subordinated to what is good for the vast majority. Personal discomforts will have to be borne for a time for the good of all....we must bear in mind that only by creating a feeling of optimism and confidence can our country’s leaders accomplish anything.” (editorial, Mar. 6, 1933, p.4)

“We are beginning to discover that we live in a world in which isolation is quite impossible, a world in which no man can live for himself alone. The most frugal and intelligent farmer in Iowa can go bankrupt because of something that happens beyond the Atlantic; because he does, the steady Detroit industrialist, through no fault of his own, can find red ink on his ledgers; and that, in turn, may close a reliable bank in Atlanta. So now we have this new world “interdependence” to digest. It brings with it the necessity for an entire new social viewpoint...” (editorial, Mar. 6, 1933, p.4)

“Acting in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary of the Treasury William H. Woodin, banks throughout New Jersey started to reopen their doors today to carry on curtailed activity...” (Mar. 7, 1933, p.1)

Many of the shops in Morristown took out a full-page ad on March 7, 1933, p.3:

“A SHORTAGE of READY CASH does not impair YOUR CREDIT STANDING IN THESE MORRISTOWN STORES”, reads the headline. “The use of charge accounts is open to our customers in the present emergency on the same basis as during normal times. The undersigned Morristown Merchants are prepared to meet your needs. Business is based on faith and credit. We have faith in our country—our community—our **BANKS**—our customers and ourselves. Of 65,000 residents whose credit standing is known by the Morris County Credit Bureau—less than 15,000 avail themselves of credit accommodations. In the present emergency we encourage the use of credit. Avail yourself of this privilege.”

On page 9, March 7, 1933, The Daily Record explained **“Here’s What Scrip Is—How You’ll Get It—and How You’ll Spend It”**. Following are excerpts: “Scrip is a promissory note of the banks that are members of the Clearing House Association and is issued by them as a money substitute. It will be issued at the banks....in bill forms from \$1 or \$5 to \$50....The butcher, baker and grocer will accept scrip. Checks presented at banks by depositors will be cashed in scrip....On the expiration of the bank holiday, banks will exchange dollars for scrip....Liquid bank deposits, government securities and other sound assets of the banks constitute the security behind scrip....Scrip of one state will not necessarily be good in another.... Insurance companies will accept scrip for payment of premiums. Interest or principal of mortgages can be paid in scrip, check or cash, whichever is practicable....Railroads will accept checks from responsible individuals or corporations on their credit list. All others will have to pay cash....”

Yet the very next day—**“Plan for Use of Scrip Seems To Be Given Up”**

“The immediate financial fate of thousands of Morristown residents, eagerly awaiting the reopening of local banks Friday morning after the five day holiday, will be made known tomorrow morning....According to ex-Senator Frank D. Abell, president of the First National Bank of Morristown...the plan... specifies that employers seeking payroll monies will be given ten per cent in cash of the required sum and requested to issue the remainder to their employees in small checks....Such a procedure is necessary...because of the enormity of the Morristown payroll total. With the State Hospital and municipal payrolls amounting to nearly \$100,000, the banks would be hard put to pay in full and meet the payroll requirements of other concerns drawing on local banks....” (Mar. 8, 1933, p.1)

“Stating his firm belief that the banking machinery of the nation will be set in motion within the next seventy-two hours, ex-Senator Frank D. Abell, speaking at...the Morristown Rotary Club, urged that the public maintain its present calm attitude. “There is no need for alarm,” said Mr.

Abell,...“the banks in Morristown, Morris County and the entire state of New Jersey are sound institutions.”.... Referring to recent banking exposures implicating nationally prominent bankers, ex-Senator Abell stated that these individuals should be placed alongside of Al Capone in a Federal Penitentiary.” (Mar. 8, 1933, p.1)

Part 4 of the series of articles on the Morris County Emergency Relief Administration appeared on March 8, 1933, p.2, this one concerning community gardens and morale. “Food and clothing are temporary problems, but the preservation of faith and moral courage has a far reaching effect upon the life and spirit of the community itself....This year plans for community vegetable gardens...are being developed under the direction of the State and County Relief Administrations, garden clubs, and other groups throughout the State....the Morris County Relief Administration will include the cost of seeds in its regular relief expenditures....Last year a number of very successful gardens were developed in New Jersey....Most applicants had their own land, but in twelve cases where no land was available, residents of Morristown loaned land and had it plowed and harrowed without expense to the individual....” (Mar. 8, 1933, p.2)

“No American president in all history has ever occupied quite the position that President Roosevelt occupies today. By a unique combination of circumstances he stands in the spot where all of the hopes and fears of the nation converge....Every problem that the country faces—and there are many of them, overwhelming in size and complexity—has been dumped on his doorstep. The responsibility that all of this puts on his shoulders is almost beyond belief....Mr. Roosevelt begins his term with the whole-hearted best wishes of all Americans, regardless of party...If he succeeds he will succeed greatly; if he fails his failure will be immeasurable....We have spoken our minds through the orderly processes of the ballot box, and today we are putting our problems in the hands of a man of our own choosing. The framework of our society has withstood a great strain. The rest depends—not on institutions but on The Man.” (editorial, Mar. 8, 1933, p.4)

The accompanying editorial cartoon by Herblock headlined “Carrying Out the Moratorium Idea” depicts the capitol building with a big sign at the entrance—“HOLIDAY ON PARTISAN POLITICS”. (March 8, 1933, p.4)

Scrip or no scrip. “Legislative plans for banking relief proceeded today while officials sought instructions from Washington for the issuance of scrip in New Jersey....a bill...to create a central clearing house to issue scrip would be passed by the Legislature tonight “for future use” if not in present emergency....New Jersey banks today made preparations to open as early as tomorrow under whatever Federal restrictions may be imposed. Meanwhile, the state’s leaders looked to Washington and Congress before going ahead with their own plans to ease the financial situation....” (Mar. 9, 1933, p.1)

Part 5 in the series about the Morris County Emergency Relief Administration appeared on March 9, 1933, p.2. “Due to the size of Morristown it is classed by the State Emergency Relief Administration under a grouping of municipalities of from 10,000 to 50,000 population and must appropriate towards its own relief needs an amount equal to fifteen cents a person of the population a month, or about \$2,250, before it is entitled to state grants. Thereafter the state will contribute an equal amount and fifty percent of additional appropriations, if necessary, provided the combined total does not exceed forty cents a person. In Morristown 493 families have been registered on the relief lists....The American Legion has conducted successful drives for money, food and clothing. Local dairies have contributed more than 30,000 quarts of milk, bakeries 12,000 loaves of bread, individuals more than 7,000 garments and many donations of actual

money. Coal dealers are distributing coal allotments at greatly reduced prices and fifty doctors, many of them specialists in other parts of the county, are meeting emergency medical needs for the barest compensation from the municipal relief funds. The police, with other departments, have done more than their share, both in services and contributions of money...”

“President Roosevelt called upon Congress today for dictatorial power to reduce government costs and federal salaries promising that if it complies “there is reasonable prospect” for a balanced budget within a year....” (March 10, 1933, p.1)

“The most important duty facing the American people today is that they give complete and unqualified support to President Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt began his administration by using war powers. He was entirely justified in doing so. Today’s emergency is as critical as any war could be....there is a responsibility on us as citizens—to form a united column in support of the president. In time of war there is no room for partisanship, no room for protracted debate, no room for petty criticism. That is equally true of the present emergency....We have got to be ready to follow our leader with all the enthusiasm and devotion we can muster....If, later on, we find that we have gone in the wrong direction, we can settle things in the constitutional way.... If Mr. Roosevelt fails, we all fail....” (editorial, Mar. 10, 1933, p.4)

“Extension of the national banking holiday...does not come as any big shock...The legislation that the president requested for the emergency was put through in record time of seven and a half hours by Congress yesterday showing how that body can act when forced to....What the country needs is the cessation of banks acting as “pawnshops” and a return to sound banking practises. That is what the president has promised...” (editorial, Mar. 10, 1933, p.4) Page 7 this day features the “Text of President Roosevelt’s Proclamation Extending the National Banking Holiday”.

“COURAGE NEEDED IN CRISIS” headlines an editorial on March 11, 1933, p.4. “We are going to need courage, first of all, because the process of recovery isn’t going to be quick and automatic....We have a fearless pilot and he has a good course well charted; but we are not going to get into the safe harbor day after tomorrow....there will still be sacrifices for us to make. Some of us may have to accept the fact that part of the money we had laid away isn’t going to come back to us. Some of us may have to accept a sharp loss on securities....And most of all we must have the courage to accept what may look like radical departures from traditional policies. Our social and economic organization is going to be erected on lines unlike those of the past. We are going to see the government trying to do things that were not formerly considered the government’s job; we are going to see it try to do some of its old jobs in an entirely new way. We have got to greet these changes fearlessly...”

“Local banks expect to reopen for business on Wednesday in connection with the plan of the President for gradual reopening of banks this week....Applications have been made by the local banks for the necessary permits to reopen but no answer has as yet been received....” (Mar. 13, 1933, p.1)

Part 6 of the series on the Morris County Emergency Relief Administration, by Leonard Lathrop, informs us “Those who work for relief receive a work ticket from Mr. DeGroot and this is used as a time card by the foreman on the job to check the hours of labor. The time ticket is presented to Mr. Nelson Butera at the municipal building and a food voucher, which is an order on the municipal commissary, issued. The food voucher is accepted as cash payment by Mr. DeGroot.

In this way more than 200 families a week get the benefit of wholesale prices at the municipal store where staple commodities are passed on to the consumer at cost. Furthermore all goods are purchased through local dealers and vegetables and eggs are brought from local farmers. Bacon and eggs, in fact, lead in the demand for merchandise, but the store provides butter, canned goods of all kinds, lima beans, flour and other staples of the highest grade....The dispensing of milk is, in itself, a business and this is directed by Gerald Gervasio." (Mar. 13, 1933, p.2)

An editorial from the Madison Progress & Florham Park Press was reprinted on March 13, 1933, p.4. "During the past week, with banks closed and ready cash tighter than it has ever been, Madisonians realized that the "Try Madison First" idea was not a bad one after all. With Newark, Morristown and New York stores refusing to accept checks or charge purchases to out-of-town, unknown patrons, Madison buyers were forced to do their trading right at home. Perhaps they failed to realize that right here in Madison they can find the identical articles which are offered in out-of-town stores. Madison stores were a necessity during the past week. They readily gave credit to reputable citizens who deprived of a ready supply of cash, found local stores a convenience. Local stores gave real service to Madisonians during the past week, even more so than they have been doing in normal times. Yet their efforts and services will not be appreciated. Local purchasers will go right back to out-of-town stores with times again normal ...Madison merchants live in Madison, pay taxes in Madison, serve Madison and stand back of the products they dispense day in and day out. For our own good and the good of Madison..." Try Madison First." "

" "Let's Go!" to the Mt. Lakes Club house tomorrow night, when a fine show and dance will be given under the auspices of the combined organizations in Denville for the Unemployment Relief fund. This entire production is under the direction of Harold N. Raymond who has composed many new songs, which were used for the first time in this production last week when the same entertainment was given for the benefit of Mt. Lakes unemployed...The entire proceeds of the show, less the charge for lighting of the auditorium and the stage and the cost of printing posters and tickets will be turned over to the newly organized Woman's Club of Denville to be used in aiding the less fortunate of the entire township, regardless of race, religion or political affiliation." (Mar. 13, 1933, p.5)

Succasunna dateline: "Roxbury Welfare League, a volunteer organization established in the general store of Meeker & Banks on Main street, receives applications and gives out clothing, shoes and other articles Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 3 to 5, with William F. Riley in charge. The league has established a milk fund whereby some fifty needy and under-nourished children are served daily. About 100 of the 191 families on the Roxbury Township needy list have been aided by the league. Church societies and the domestic science department at Roxbury High School...have made many garments for women and girls. Men and boys have been given seventy-five pairs of trousers, 150 pairs of hose, 100 suits of underwear, sixty-five pairs of overalls and jackets and fifty pairs of shoes, all new...." (Mar. 13, 1933, p.6)

A pictorial spread on p.12, March 13, 1933 illustrates gold being brought back to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City by governmental ultimatum. "Newark's gold hoarders were returning gold to the banks in a steady stream...\$400,000...that will buttress the nation's currency."

"One hundred and one banks in twenty-five New Jersey cities reopened their doors for regular business today after a ten-day banking holiday. Of the reopened banks, forty-seven were

national banks, licensed to resume normal business by the treasury department. The remaining sixty-four were state controlled institutions whose reopening was sanctioned by the State Commissioner of Banking and Insurance.” (Mar. 14, 1933, p.1)

“Orders to “clear decks for action” were issued to the employees of the five banks in Morristown today and unless all advance expectations go astray, the quintet of local financial institutions will be open for business tomorrow morning “on an unrestricted basis.”...All five local banks have applied for the required licenses, the applications having been made Saturday and yesterday, but as yet no permits have been granted.” (Mar. 14, 1933, p.1)

“The years that stretched between the end of the war and the collapse of the stock market boom were marked by a great many striking phenomena, but none of them was much more striking than the resolute way in which we refused to look at any proposition or consider any course of action that did not have a direct, easily-assessed value in dollars and cents. We saw ourselves as the world’s great workshop and the world’s great bank; we saw our cities thrusting at the sky with glittering new towers, we saw our highways clogged with an ever-mounting tide of traffic, we looked out from a mountain top and saw the kingdoms of the earth at our feet—but we had no vision, and because we were blind we took a prodigious header....We remained complacent in the fact of great scandals in the federal government. We let stock jugglers and financial “wizards” do as they wished with us, perfectly content because their doings seemed to promote material prosperity. If our old ideals about freedom, democracy and public morality got in our way we discarded them because they were “bad for business.”.... All of that is over now; and it is very good that we be reminded by no less a person than our president that without vision we perish....” (editorial, Mar. 14, 1933, p.4)

“A veritable flood of money poured into Morris County banks today, following their resumption of business this morning after the extended bank holiday. Fifteen financial institutions throughout the county opened their doors wide at 8 o’clock this morning and began operations on the same scale as existed before President Franklin D. Roosevelt startled the country by ordering a national bank holiday eleven days ago. Steady streams of smiling citizens converged upon the county banks, all eager to deposit rather than withdraw. According to an official announcement made this morning in this city, five times as much money has been deposited in the five Morristown banks this morning than has been withdrawn....even veteran bank officials were astounded at the amount of currency left at the tellers’ windows.” (Mar. 15, 1933, p.1)

“The new scheme for banking proposed by Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the Chase National Bank, is the sort of thing that would have been denounced as radical, subversive and revolutionary if it had been advanced a year ago. Today it is accepted on all sides as a sane, logical and valuable scheme and the chances are good that its leading provisions will become law before long....Complete divorce of investment and deposit banking, separation of commercial banks and their security affiliates, reduction of the financial overlords of Wall Street almost to the position of innocent bystanders...Formerly we would have stood aghast at the idea of thus laying impious hands on the money changers....We were committed to the belief that if we fixed everything just right for the boys at the top of the heap, we at the bottom would eventually get a trickle of benefits....” (editorial, Mar. 15, 1933, p.4)

“An effort by Freeholder Howard F. Barrett to further cut the salaries of the Farm Demonstration Office staff failed by a three to one vote...The Farm Demonstrator, Club Agent and Home Economics Agent are paid principally by the state and county with some federal aid so their

salaries come from three sources. On the portion received from the county, they take the same proportionate shares of cuts as the other county employees but on the state salary they get only a ten percent slash....Mr. Barrett wanted the percentage cut of their county salaries increased so that the total amount of pay they would lose would equal that of other county employees getting the same original salary....” (Mar. 16, 1933, p.1)

“The New Jersey Legislature will reconvene Monday to debate Princeton University’s \$7,000,000 economy recommendations, allegedly blocked by Highway Commission “pork and patronage” lobbying....Senate President Emerson Richards...predicted that ultimately the cooperation of Governor Moore would end the commission’s fight for its existence....The commission is losing its power because Governor Moore is withholding approval of its program and it can’t deliver contracts—pork and patronage—to faithful representatives.” “ (Mar. 16, 1933, p.1)

Away with Prohibition – tax beer and wine and hard liquor. That is the theme of the poem “Beer And The Budget” by Edward M. Young, appearing in the March 16, 1933 newspaper, p.2. Following is one stanza:

“Just spend a few dollars whenever you dine,
By drinking near beer, then some whiskey and wine,
We must balance the budget, then wealth will appear,
With the making and selling and drinking of beer.”

The last of the series on the Morris County Emergency Relief Administration appeared on March 16, 1933, p.9. “The work of the Emergency Relief Administration would have been virtually impossible upon its present scale had it not been for the voluntary co-operation of unselfish individuals and groups throughout the counties....These women go directly among the needy families, investigate all applications and reinvestigate at regular intervals, and keep a written and up to date file....they also advise families upon health, clinical treatment, improvement of living conditions and many other matters.”

“It has been reported by Mauritius Jensen, Jr., President of the Whippany Grammar School Alumni Association, that forty-six pupils of the Whippany Schools are being given milk and crackers daily by the association. A benefit entertainment was recently held in the school by the association through which the fund was enlarged...” (Mar. 16, 1933, p.14)

“Declaring that the banking situation is well in hand...former Senator Frank D. Abell, Morristown banker, yesterday expressed the opinion that the country is on the eve of a new day....”As a life-long Republican, I want to say I admire the way President Roosevelt is getting his program through,” said Abell. “He is neither hesitating nor deferring, but getting action.”.... Expressing his appreciation for the confidence displayed by the people during the bank holiday he paid a special tribute to the foreign element and the poor. During the hysteria of the time they behaved beautifully, he said, while many wealthy depositors attempted to withdraw large sums of gold.” (March 17, 1933, p.1)

“Permission to open granted to five more state banks and two national today had reduced the list of unopened banks in New Jersey to 90 out of a total of 467 operating before the banking holidayAt the bank commissioner’s offices in Trenton it was said that only 18 state banks remain unlicensed to open...The banking department would not disclose the names of the 18 unopened institutions.” (Mar. 17, 1933, p.2)

“A veteran English newspaper writer...remarked the other day that it seems to him “a remarkable and wonderful thing” that the temper of the American people has been so cheerful and hopeful during the past fortnight....It is almost as if the American nation felt that a dramatic appeal was being made to something deep, daring and idealistic in its soul—being made not only by the government but by the voice of history itself....The depression has shown us, at last, the worst that it can do; and thus it has challenged us to show the best that there is in us. The challenge itself has lifted us up....” (editorial, Mar. 17, 1933, p.6)

“American motorists, constituting roundly one-fourth the population, pay in addition to general taxes probably the heaviest special levies ever imposed upon any form of transportation!...The real weight of the automotive tax burden, averaging \$45, is concealed by small payments. The gasoline tax, averaging slightly more than 5¢ per gallon, seems to the consumer merely an increase in the price of fuel. Yet the total gasoline tax in 1932 is estimated at \$600,000,000, and in some instances this tax actually doubled the cost of gasoline to the consumer. The average vehicle operator pays \$30 yearly in gasoline taxes alone, or about two-thirds of the motor tax bill.” (Mar. 17, 1933, p.13)

PRESIDENT IS NOT A DICTATOR, headlines the editorial on March 20, 1933, p.4. “Just why anybody should fear that Congress, by granting President Roosevelt extraordinary powers, is turning him into a dictator, is a thing very hard to figure out. “It is perfectly true that the powers already given Mr. Roosevelt...are far greater than any powers ever before given to a peace-time president. It is perfectly true that executive authority centered in the White House today is greater than that wielded by any other presidents, with the possible exception of Lincoln and Wilson. But does this make him a dictator?...Not if such men as Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin and Kemal Pasha are dictators....An effort is being made in Washington to make leadership effective; to have done with petty delays and a multitude of conflicting counsels. We, the people, put Mr. Roosevelt where he is; we can put him out again if we choose. Congress can checkmate him if it wishes. His power is a loan, and the loan can be called if it seems advisable.”

Roosevelt Asks Jobs in Forests To Aid 250,000; President’s Fifth Major Proposal To Legislators Urges Creation Of Civilian Conservation Corps As Aid To Army of Jobless. (headline, Mar. 21, 1933, p.1)

Dateline Trenton: “A measure to protect home owners from foreclosures until the Legislature declares the depression at an end was passed in the Assembly tonight by a vote of 56 to 1. Both Republicans and Democratic leaders lent their support to the measure....All property used for dwelling purposes would be exempt from sheriffs sales despite failure to pay installments on the principal of mortgages. It provides NO relief, however, to mortgagers failing to meet interest installments. Neither would those failing to pay taxes, water rents or other municipal levies be exempt from foreclosure. It also provides that all foreclosures already started but which have NOT yet resulted in decrees being entered, shall be automatically stayed....The law would take effect immediately with approval by the Governor. It was passed under suspension of rules and ordered sent to the Senate.” (Mar. 28, 1933, p.1)

“President Roosevelt asked Congress today to provide federal supervision of investment securities. In a direct special message, the chief executive declared the public has sustained “severe losses thru practices neither ethical nor honest.” He proposed to invoke the power of the

federal government in interstate commerce profits to control new securities.” (Mar. 29, 1933, p.1)

“It seems that the politicians at Washington do not take kindly to the predominance of college professors in the president’s inner circle of advisors....The college professor...is long on theory and short on practice. He can cook up endless schemes which look well on paper but don’t work out in real life....Consider the situation for a moment. For the past decade all of our affairs have been in the hands of men who, if they were nothing else, were at least practical. We have had a set of eminently practical politicians at Washington; we have had highly practical bankers and industrialists running the worlds of finance and industry. And look at the mess we’re in! The most visionary of collegiate dreamers could hardly have devised a system which would crash more completely than this system erected by our practical and hard-boiled realists....” (editorial, Mar. 29, 1933, p.6)

Boonton: “Money collected as the result of an appeal to forty local taxpayers for the prepayment of taxes enabled the town yesterday to meet its payroll without the expense of borrowing on regular tax anticipation notes....These citizens were rewarded by a 5 per cent discount. The taxes collected and a bank balance were sufficient to meet the regular bi-monthly payroll which totals approximately \$9,000....” (Mar. 31, 1933, p.1)

“Through a united effort on the part of the Garden Clubs, the Morris County Florists and Gardeners Society, the unemployment relief agencies of Morris County and Morristown and the local Kiwanis Club it now seems assured that there will be a “Back to the Garden” movement of large proportions in Morristown this summer....Town Clerk Nelson Butera for the Morristown unemployment Relief Committee is receiving applications for gardens. Half a hundred men have already applied or signified their intentions of so doing. Members of the Morris County Florists and Gardeners Society have accepted the responsibility of furnishing expert supervision for the gardens and seeds, implements and fertilizers can probably be supplied to all who do not have the means to procure them elsewhere. Activities will be commenced immediately and garden plots laid out. Some will be on large acreages near the outskirts of the city while others will be on vacant lots in different parts of the city....” (Mar. 31, 1933, p.1)

“The New Jersey Power & Light Co. cannot make any concession at this time as to rates for street lighting service in Denville Township. As a result street lights in all sections of the township with the exception of the ornamental system on Broadway will be turned off Sunday. The Broadway system...will be turned out April 15....Because of the orders of Morris County banking interests that township expenses must be cut if the banks are to finance township affairs, the lighting budget was cut from \$8,500 to \$2,600 and cancellation of the contracts on their expiration Sunday and April 15 ordered....The current will continue to flow through the lines to serve adjacent municipalities.” (Mar. 31, 1933, p.2)