

The Great Depression in Morris County, NJ as seen in the pages of the Daily Record March-April 1936

“The Merit Manufacturing Company of 14 Speedwell avenue, uniform and apron manufacturers owned and operated by Thomas and Carolyn Falciglia, has placed group life insurance on all of the 56 employees effective March 1 through the local office of the Sun Life Assurance Company....Each employee by virtue of three months service, will hereafter during his or her employ be automatically covered for \$750 life insurance, payable to a personally designated beneficiary, in a form of salary continuance by guaranteeing \$62.50 monthly salary for one year in case of death from any cause while in the company employ. The Merit Manufacturing Company has been in Morristown since 1931 locating in the McAlpin Block Building under excellent working conditions....This insurance is a non-contributory plan and automatic coverage is given regardless of age....” (March 2, 1936, p.8)

“A slash in the staff of the County ERA office, effective Saturday, was announced today by Justus P. Nesbitt, County director. Having had the services of 37 administrators since December, the office will carry on after the end of the week with only 29. The ERA is carrying into the month of March the lowest number of cases and persons in the history of the agency. A total of 917 cases and 3,372 persons are on the relief rolls. A year ago in March the peak month, there were 3,153 cases and 12,042 persons. However, Nesbitt estimates the 3,372 persons he is carrying plus the persons supported by WPA jobs total very close to 12,000. He sees no noticeable improvement in private industry employment in the past year.” (March 3, 1936, p.1)

“TRENTON, (AP) – The New Jersey legislature “ordered” by Governor Hoffman to provide relief funds this week has gone home without finding a cent....supporters of Governor Hoffman and Democrats defeated the “Economy” group measures in both houses. They charged that the bills, part of the plan to divert highway money, were inadequate....Where the legislature will turn for the funds remained problematical....

Senator Lester H. Clee of Essex, leader of the “economy group,” moved in the upper house a measure to divert...from municipal and county road aid. He was supported only by two Republicans, Senators Albert E. Burling of Camden and Winant Van Winkle of Bergen and two Democrats, Senators James J. Bowers of Somerset and William H. Smathers of Atlantic. Clee said the bill “was necessary on the basis of immediate need.” Bowers said the state had “to go ahead and try something” and Smathers noted that the State was overrun with roads....” (March 4, 1936, p.1)

“TRENTON, (AP) – “Economy” group leaders stood pat today on their program for economies and diversions to finance relief....Senator Winant Van Winkle of Bergen, a supporter of the “Economy” group, was arranging a program calling for the return of relief administration to municipalities, which would be given state funds. Van Winkle contemplated cutting administration costs to reduce the estimated \$3,000,000 monthly relief bill to \$2,000,000....The State Sales Tax Repeal Association, in a statement, demanded that the Governor retract his remark to the legislature that landlords and grocers are “reluctant” to accept rent and food orders because of the “uncertainty” of relief financing. The association charged Hoffman with an attempt to “undermine confidence in New Jersey’s official food and rent orders to the needy which have back of them all the credit of this state and represent a sacred obligation.” ” (March 5, 1936, p.1)

“The Morris County Teachers’ Federal Credit Union, a saving and loan co-operative, was tentatively organized at the local high school yesterday afternoon. The 40 County teachers present named leaders who will file articles of incorporation with Federal banking authorities....It is said the union is of particular benefit to persons who need small loans at a time when they are unable to furnish security against them. Upon payment of the 25 cents entrance fee, a participator qualifies for a loan of \$50 at an interest rate not exceeding one percent per month, which is considerably lower than that charged by many loan companies....It is...modeled after similar unions already established in Union County and in the City

of Newark. Under its proposed provisions, all school employees in Morris County, including teachers, janitors, and school board workers, are eligible to join....” (March 5, 1936, p.6)

“WASHINGTON, D.C.—The axe of economy fell upon both Morristown National Historical Park, and Voorhees State Park, with a drastic reduction in allotments of federal funds for emergency conservation work, scheduled for April 1, it was learned today at ECW headquarters. With the amount of money available for ECW during the seventh period, which begins April 1 and lasts through September 31, fast nearing exhaustion, not only will the total number of camps be reduced, but allotments to individual camps that remain will be cut more than \$3,000 per period, it was indicated. Officials of the National Park Service stated that the reduction in the amount of money for the Morristown and Voorhees Park CCC camps will mean that the programs of work scheduled for the parks will, of necessity be reduced by at least twenty percent. The decreased allotment of funds will mean less material, less equipment, and a possible reduction in supervisory personnel” (March 9, 1936, p.1)

“TRENTON – Morris County played a leading part in the Legislative drama which yesterday resulted in agreement of warring factions of the Republican party to a further diversion of highway funds and a sales tax which is estimated to raise approximately \$30,000,000 for relief. In conferences of Economy advocates and tax spenders, so called, which lasted all day, were Assemblyman Frank Kelley, of Boonton, and Mrs. Thomas Streeter, of Morristown, who is a member of the Emergency Relief Council. Taking no sides in the bitter controversy which has waged here since the Legislature opened, but only interested in seeing that relief was forthcoming, Mrs. Streeter...had much to do with bringing about a comprehensive emergency relief plan....Today Kelley, with other economy leaders and their opponents, are together drafting a bill which will be introduced in the Legislature tomorrow night. It is believed this bill will provide for diversions mentioned and a tax on luxuries, including tobacco, cosmetics, amusements and soda water. On tobacco alone, it is estimated at least \$8,000,000 will be raised. In Pennsylvania, where a luxury tax is in operation, a tobacco tax yields more than \$12,000,000....” (March 10, 1936, p.1; author Wood Vance)

“TRENTON, (AP)—....The relief problem is acute because the State Emergency Relief Administration has served notice that unless funds are made available by the end of this week, it will shift the \$3,000,000 monthly bill to municipalities and go out of business. The conferees estimated the annual yield from the new taxes at: Amusements, \$3,000,000. Tobacco, \$8,000,000. Cosmetics, \$2,000,000. Soft drinks, \$3,000,000. Even if the tax bills are enacted this week, there will be a delay before any revenue will reach the State treasury. This lag will be taken care of, it was said, by “borrowing” from other State funds, the money to be replaced as the revenue from the new levies begins to flow in. The committee figured the “luxury” taxes would bring in \$11,000,000 during the rest of this year. With the \$3,000,000 to be obtained under the Clee bill and another \$6,000,000 to come from municipal contributions and certain economies, a total of \$20,000,000 would be reached. The remaining \$7,000,000 of the \$27,000,000 estimated as needed would be obtained by turning administration or relief back to the municipalities....Passage by the Assembly of bills to bring the State law into conformity with the provisions of the Federal Social Security law as applied to crippled and dependent children and blind and aged, left only the signature of the governor needed to add 22,000 more persons to the welfare lists. The measures would lower age and resident requirements. The State will receive \$3,000,000 annually it was estimated....” (March 10, 1936, p.8)

“The Board of Education last night moved to compensate property owners whose fire insurance rates have been skyrocketed because of the proximity of their homes to the frame buildings constructed in the rear of the Speedwell avenue school as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps unit which has been occupying the school for the past three years....insurance rates on the Frank Miller property, 14 Speedwell place, adjoining the frame buildings had been raised \$80.62 for a three-year period....At the present time the government pays no rental for the use of the school but pays all maintenance costs and has made occasional improvements in the old building. A letter from Russell DeCoster of 190 Speedwell avenue, complaining that members of the C. C. C. camp had thrown bottles and other articles into the

yard of his property and that there was much “loud talking,” singing, swearing and many remarks of such a nature girls were no longer allowed to work in the yard was received by the Board. Recently DeCoster said he had counted eight liquor bottles, “all empty,” on the snow in his yard. He said there was no way of estimating the number of bottles lying on various lower layers of snow....At C. C. C. headquarters today it was said a copy of the DeCoster letter had been received earlier in the month and had resulted in drastic disciplinary action....a subordinate officer told the Daily Record the matter was “completely under control.”.... (March 11, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – Legislative leaders were busy today drafting measures they thought would solve the “relief crisis” by taxing tobacco, cosmetics, soft drinks and amusements and diverting money here and there to piece out a program for feeding the unemployed during the remainder of 1936. Yesterday they decided the “luxury” taxes should be made as painless as possible by following the federal government’s system of selling stamps to retailers and letting them decide whether the customer should be made constantly aware he is paying so much tax on every article he buys. Sponsors of the “stamp tax” hope to push the necessary bills through the legislature tonight, but failing that, the lawmakers will probably remain in session until something is done to provide relief money after Saturday night, when the state’s funds will be exhausted. Already various groups have voiced opposition to the new taxes....Dealers, under the plan, would buy their tax stamps at the bank where they do business. If they bought more than \$100 worth at a time they would receive a discount of five per cent and the bank would receive three per cent commission for its services. The dealer would then paste a stamp on every “luxury” article he sells. “Luxuries” would include nickel cigars. Governor Hoffman largely attributes defeat of his ill-fated sales tax to the fact customers were kept constantly aware of the tax they are paying, and for that reason the legislature is expected to let the dealer choose for himself whether the tax shall be passed on to the customer. The “luxury” taxes, designed to raise \$8,000,000 the remainder of this year, would become effective April 15. Until then the \$3,000,000 highway fund diversion would be used to finance relief. Another \$6,100,000 from other sources, including \$350,000 a month in contributions from municipalities, would bring the total now “in sight” to \$17,100,000. That, said Senate President John C. Barbour after yesterday’s secret conference, would provide all but \$4,850,000 of the money needed. There would be a shortage of \$1,850,000 the first two and a half months, and \$3,00,000 the last six months. Barbour expressed belief the conferees would “find” that amount somehow at today’s continuation of the conference. Senator Charles E. Loizeaux, chairman of the legislative appropriations committee and supporter of sales taxes, advanced a new plan today which he said would solve the relief problem by throwing the entire burden back on the counties and municipalities. To compensate the local governments, the state would take over the maintenance of schools, the salaries of various local officials and finance of the project with a flexible gross receipts tax on business. He would abolish the present state emergency relief administration and let each community set up its own non-salaried welfare board under supervision of the state institutions department. This, he indicated, would have the effect of eliminating some families from the relief rolls. All relief would be financed by local property owners. In turn, the property owners would be relieved of the \$18,000,000 a year school tax, the \$900,000 soldiers’ bonus item, \$850,000 in salaries of judges and court attendants, \$744,000 in the cost of caring for dependent children, and \$85,000 in old age relief costs. Loizeaux estimated \$20,073,390 a year would finance the plan. He made clear, however, he would not sponsor such measure unless all factions agreed they were necessary....”
(March 11, 1936, p. 1 & 3)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The legislature rejected its compromise “luxury” tax program early today and turned again to its relief committee for some other way out of the relief-financing dilemma which reaches a crisis at midnight tonight....As the debate progressed, the bill’s supporters deserted one by one....”
(March 12, 1936, p.1 & 11)

“**TRENTON (AP)** – The New Jersey Legislature began a new treasure hunt today for emergency relief funds in a last desperate effort to prevent saddling of a \$3,000,000 monthly bill on the municipalities....A motion to adjourn until Monday night—beyond the deadline—was before the assembly when Oscar R. Wilensky, first-year man from Passaic, decided to try again. He offered a resolution saying the state

“faces one of the gravest crises in its history,” and return of relief to the municipalities would result in “complete breakdown of relief aid.” The measure urged daily sessions until the relief problem is solved, and was adopted 43 to 4....At 5 P.M. Republican legislators will go into another caucus. Wednesday night’s caucus lasted until nearly midnight and still no agreement could be reached....the lawmakers quit at 2 A.M., many of them “disgusted.”Today the lawmakers were considering other plans—the soft drink bottlers’ plea for return of the general sales tax rather than the “luxury” tax they said would “ruin” them; the proposal of Thomas E. Taggart, Atlantic assemblyman, for a tax on gross earnings of corporations, and Senator Charles e. Loizeaux’s proposed “flexible sales tax.”....” (March 13, 1936, p.1)

“**ROCKAWAY** – The Mayor and Common Council were cool last night to a suggestion that local taxes be cancelled for five years on new houses and factories....the matter was tabled, apparently to remain a dead issue. Originating with the Chamber of Commerce, the proposal was designed to encourage home building and location of industry here. Joseph Harris appeared before the councilmen only to leave disgruntled when they failed to even discuss the suggestion at length. Harris expressed vague intimations that “something big” was coming to Rockaway in the real estate field, and said the borough would make a “tremendous mistake” to pass up the tax cancellation. He predicted wiping out of the local levy would attract between 50 and 100 new homes. On a \$150 tax bill, the borough’s share would be only about \$40, Mayor John Crane pointed out. He argued a \$40 reduction yearly would be sufficiently interesting to prospective home builders. Mayor Crane further contended those now paying taxes would be angered by the moratorium for newcomers. Harris hurried from the council chambers, threatening that “there won’t be any more houses built in Rockaway if you don’t back the chamber on this”....” (March 13, 1936, p.1)

“The workings of the federal relief agencies in Morris County were described at the March meeting of the Morris County Women’s Democratic Club held Thursday afternoon at the Women’s Community Club....Mr. Smith emphasized the point that WPA makes men out of those who report for work or sends them home. The group is now releasing men from jobs if they are unable to do the work in active construction methods and the relief agencies will have to care for them. The WPA, he said, won’t take incompetent men on construction because it is bad for the morale of the others....Mrs. Keller said that the housekeeper project which was started in Morris has filled a long felt want on the part of welfare agencies and that it has been so successful because of the splendid cooperation of doctors, the visiting nurse association and tuberculosis association. It has been in existence only five weeks but up to the present time 59 housekeepers have been sent to homes where there is illness and where the mother is incapacitated. Mrs. Keller voiced disapproval of the way sewing room supplies are now handled. When these rooms were under federal supervision the articles were given out at the request of case workers, today because the ERA rooms are now under state supervision, they are sent to central warehouses where they often remain while many families are in dire need. In her work she has found that there are many WPA families who are in need of supplies but who can’t get them because sewing room articles may only be given to ERA relief cases.” (March 13, 1936, p.6)

“**NEWARK**—Women engaged on the WPA Housekeepers Aid Project are performing an outstanding humanitarian service, according to State WPA [sic] William H. J. Ely....The Morris County Welfare Board sent the following message to the office of the Housekeepers’ Project, signed by Millicent L. Culver, supervisor of the General Welfare Bureau: “So many of our people are aged, crippled, ill or partially blind, depressed and lonely. Many cannot take care of themselves and their homes. These people have acquired a new outlook on life after the housekeepers on your project have cleaned their homes thoroughly for the first time in years....Companionship was afforded people who otherwise saw no outsiders from week to week. One of the elderly blind patients could hardly wait to tell our visitor that the WPA housekeeper had even made him a home-made cake.”....” (March 13, 1936, p.14)

“Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter, President of the County Welfare Board, announced today in an open letter to all municipal officials and relief clients that should the Legislature fail to act today, relief will be carried on under authority of the Welfare Board. Her letter was as follows: “To All Morris County Municipal Officials and relief clients: “In the event that further funds are not made available to the ERA by Monday, March 16th, relief will be carried on without interruption under the authority of the Morris

County Welfare Board. The usual relief orders will be mailed to clients as heretofore, but will be one day late. This notice—given circulation through the kindness of the press—is assurance to all clients that their immediate needs will be met. There is no occasion for anxiety and no action on their part is necessary or advisable.” (March 14, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON, (AP)**—A weary New Jersey Legislature began an endurance contest today, hopeful that a long grind will break a deadlock on relief-financing proposals and solve an impending crisis....With the relief treasury empty, the State Relief Council notified municipalities they must feed the unemployed beginning Monday....After hours of caucuses last night, which participants said availed nothing, the Legislature adjourned to the boos of crowded Assembly galleries. Men whistled, stamped feet and hooted derisively. For a moment the atmosphere was tense....There were proposals galore, but not even their sponsors would claim sufficient support to pass them....” (March 14, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – Not within the memory of men who have watched the law-making power of this state function in the last two decades has the New Jersey Legislature faced such a crisis as that which existed all day Saturday and up 6 o’clock Sunday morning. There have been tense moments when it seemed the state was to fall in the hands of ruthless railroad lobbyists, coal combines and race track gamblers, but nothing compared with the anxious, weary, wan faces of men and women facing the possibility of starvation, leaning over the balustrade of the Assembly gallery, hoping, in some instances praying, for action that would assure them food orders when dawn came today. All day and all night and into the early hours of yesterday morning they sat, flanked by State police, in belief their presence would be pressure enough upon the legislators to bring about relief measures, while Republicans caucused and caucused until worn down to the breaking point. One Assemblyman keyed to the limit of sane endurance broke into song with “Home, Sweet Home,” another emerged from the caucus room, tears streaming down his cheeks, and sat exhausted in his seat in the assembly chamber. “My God, do they know they are dealing with human souls?” cried a woman in the gallery. “Have they ever experienced relief? Do they know what it means to starve?”....the Assemblymen were not insensible to the feelings of those on relief. They were waging a bitter, sometimes personal, and seemingly hopeless battle for a plan of diversions and taxation which would carry the relief load, at the same time save the municipalities of the state from assuming the burden....In this poignant conflict of opinions Morris County’s two Assemblymen, Frank S. Kelley and Grey W. Higbie, who heretofore stood shoulder to shoulder...came to a parting of the ways....” (March 16, 1936, p. 1 & 3, by Wood Vance)

“**DENVILLE** – Teachers in the township system will have restored in September the 10 percent pay cuts they took in the Fall of 1933. Return of the reductions was voted unanimously by the School Board last night....” (March 17, 1936, p.1)

“**MONTVILLE** – Relief recipients who refuse outside work will be taken off the rolls if it can be proved, declared Committeeman Ward Witty at a meeting in the Township Hall last night. Witty referred to a complaint from the dairy [sic] has been trying to employ two men for the past three weeks. The dairy, it was said, could get no men for the work because they prefer relief....” (March 20, 1936, p.2)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – With the approval of the CCC camp at the Morristown National Historical Park, the program of developmental work that will be carried on during the seventh period of Emergency Conservation Work was announced by the National Park Service....One of the most important tasks to be undertaken during the coming six months is the tree surgery and spray operations and tree preservation work along the park’s road and trail sides at Washington’s Headquarters, Fort Nonsense, and Jockey Hollow....the spraying is necessitated by the presence of elm borers and the apple tent moth....Another project that has been approved calls for the cleaning and preservation of 500 articles of historical interest at the Washington HeadquartersIn Jockey Hollow 16,000 trees and shrubs, of native varieties, will be moved and planted....buckwheat will be planted for food and cover....Comfort stations will be constructed in Jockey Hollow and at Fort Nonsense...one of the planned projects calling for the razing of undesirable buildings at Jockey Hollow and at Fort Nonsense....completion of topographic maps and location surveys....The completion of the work scheduled for the seventh period at the Morristown Park

will require a total of 19,578 man days of labor, \$5,735.49 for materials, and \$14,262 for overhead and supervision of the necessary work....” (March 25, 1936, p. 1 & 7)

“As if the administration’s relief program didn’t produce enough headaches already, widespread floods have added some 400,000 men and women to the list of unemployed. Much of this unemployment doubtless will be temporary....But for the moment an already bad unemployment situation has been made a great deal worse....There isn’t a great deal that can be done about a flood....similarly, the creeping paralysis of an industrial depression seems to be something that we don’t know how to check....Like the flood, it finds us utterly unable to erect an effective barrier. It inundates thriving industries, produces the same sort of stagnation brought on by high waters, and washes men by the thousands out of their jobs and their homes....Our engineers tells us that we could do much, on a long-range program, to prevent floods—by erosion control, by reforestation, by the construction of dams and reservoirs, and so on. Isn’t the same true of depressions? Can’t we, by the proper preparations in advance, keep them from being the uncontrolled curse they are now? (editorial, March 27, 1936)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The Assembly returns to the relief-financing “war” tonight with the problem over how money should be obtained still unsolved. Last night the House defeated two measures sponsored by the two factions—new taxes and economies—and left to the future the question of finding funds to carry beyond April 15....” (March 31, 1936, p.1)

“Twenty-eight out of 38 municipalities in Morris County show reductions in tax rates for 1936 over 1935, probably the largest number to have declines in their tax burdens in one year in the county history, according to figures issued today by Secretary William B. MacCracken of the County Tax Board. The general reductions were made in spite of a loss of almost \$600,000 in the amount of ratables on which the taxes were based and the general decrease was made possible in a great many cases by a cut of 11 points in the rate of the Board of Freeholders with slight drops in state rates....” (March 31, 1936, p.1)

“Three Modernize Main Street dinners held here, in Dover, and Boonton last night launched a Countywide drive for the redecoration of retail outlets in anticipation of increased sales. More than 200 merchants, bankers, and FHA men attended the three affairs....A committee to meet with the Mayor on preservation of present tax levels even after modernization is completed will be named shortly....**BOONTON** – Two prominent residents of this section joined in praising the FHA at the “Modernize Main Street” dinner of the local FHA committee at the Three Links’ Hall last night. Frank Fay, Jr. of Kinnelon, declared he was “agreeably surprised” at the service and promptness on applications in the Newark office. Joining Fay was Fred Echols, contractor, of Denville, who said he found the same service and promptness in his experience with the administration....James H. Ribeth, of the Newark FHA office, said Boonton is lagging as far as taking advantage of the housing loans. He said that statistics show that 50 per cent of the stores in the United States are in the need of repair and pointed out the sales advantages of an attractive store....” (April 1, 1936, p. 1 & 5)

“CCC workers have recreated the natural beauty of Jockey Hollow and have played a leading role in the restoration of the area and its buildings to a Colonial likeness, Elbert Cox, park superintendent, pointed out today in a summary of three years of CCC activity here. Yesterday was the third anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps....”Chestnut...has been used in the erection of cabins and rail fence restoration on the Wick property and for public consumption at the picnic area fireplaces. Locust excess has served for guard rails, fences and sign posts; and dead oak, besides furnishing material for hand-split shingles in the Wick and Guerin house restorations, has gone into the construction of bridges on bridle paths and foot trails....an intensive program, started in 1934, has been against inroads of tent caterpillars, locust borers and canker worms.... a trail built through the Commissary section of this site to open a view of typical hut and chimney ruins and scenic vistas of the hill country South of Jockey Hollow....Much of the work, particularly the making of hand-split shingles...was accomplished by CCC labor. The 15,000 shingles manufactured came from cutting dead trees in forestry operations....It is important to note the moving and transplanting of nearly 30,000 trees and shrubs. About 90 per cent collected in the park itself, they were planted along the banks

of the Jockey Hollow and Mendham-New Vernon roads and in the New York and Pennsylvania areas. Aside from field work, CCC boys have been engaged at various times to guide service. The public acclaim accorded them for their excellent explanations and descriptions is recorded in numerous written and oral comments to the park superintendent. Many individual projects complete in themselves—the construction of rubble gutters on a section of the Jockey Hollow road, to cite by one of the myriad examples—have also been completed....” (April 1, 1936, p.3)

“**BOONTON** – Dr. Howard Johnson, of Orange, speaking before the Boonton Rotary Club yesterday, described the work of the F.H.A. in eliminating slum conditions. He portrayed the housing work done through the act as creating more sanitary and more comfortable homes for the working man....Showing lantern slides of places where families of six or seven live in one room, he told of how workers are being provided with their own homes at the rate of \$5 a month per room....” (April 1, 1936, p.5)

“The FHA speaker must have had his tongue in his cheek as he made that pretty little speech at the Modernize Main Street dinner here the other night. For all those pretty little compliments to the Town of Morristown, such as the cracks about it being such an historic site and being a place people could be proud of living in were originally written in honor of the fair city of Elizabeth...All that was done was to blot out Elizabeth and write in Morristown and the release was ready for the avid consumption of press hounds....maybe we’re a little too selfish in asking that Morristown should have had a special speech all for its little self.” (Off the Record column, April 2, 1936, p.4)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Emergency Conservation workers in Morris County will be removed only after they have completed their annual spring mosquito control operations, it was announced today. In line with a general reduction in personnel...throughout the nation....The 200 members of the camp will...be sent to other points for mosquito work or will be released from the service. Meanwhile...they are going to battle what Biological Survey experts predict will be one of the worst mosquito outbreaks in years. High water during the recent floods...will hatch countless woods mosquito eggs which for months have been dormant before they were brought to life by the floodwaters. E.C.W. forces will drain off as much of the land as possible, spread oil and other mosquito preventatives over swamp areas....” (April 3, 1936, p.9)

“If you think the youths at CCC Company 241 on Speedwell avenue are a versatile group of workers, helpers and entertainers, you just don’t know your local Conservation Corps unit, according to Lieutenant Samuel Strauss, commanding officer of the Morristown encampment.... The lieutenant is never happier than when speaking of the educational pursuits of his men. “During the last enrollment period out of a membership of slightly more than 200 men we had 122 actively studying, trying to better themselves. Eight were enrolled in the Junior College and most of the rest are taking adult education courses.... Strauss contended the recent flurry over the dumping of bottles (all empty) in neighbors’ yards had been straightened out. “My men tell the reports of whiskey bottles were all exaggerated. They claim they found one funny looking wine bottle and that the rest were all pickle or peanut butter bottles. We cleaned up Mr. DeCoster’s yard for him and we’re all on good terms again. Several times during the winter, the commanding officer said, his men got calls from elderly ladies who were unable to get their cars out of ice-bound garages and each time the men responded gallantly. “Another night,” Strauss said, “we got a call from a lady in Morris Plains who wanted to know if we could send her a few entertainers. And we did.” The talent in the camp varies with each enrollment period. “Bubbles” Price, who plays tunes with two spoons and who also tap dances is a perennial favorite. Arthur Miller, a lad with a fine baritone voice, has been recommended to Major Bowes. John Chalmers is a pianist and composer of classical pieces of note. Four of the boys have formed a hillbilly orchestra. And all of them have profited by the dancing instruction of Miss Helen Jones, a New York social worker, who has been brought to the camp several times by Harry Emigh, educational advisor of the camp. “You should see those boys now and be able to compare them with what they were several months ago. Before Miss Jones started coming out, they were nothing but bashful kids, half of whom hadn’t ever danced two steps. But when we gave that dance down at the community Club not so long ago, you should have seen them step.”” (April 3, 1936, p.14)

“In these days of struggle toward a new basis of social and economic security, any move that tends to improve employer and employee relations is certainly to be welcomed. It is therefore encouraging to note the challenge which one of industry’s greatest leaders now flings at his executive contemporaries. It comes from Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors Corporation. “Added responsibilities must be assumed by industry,” warns Mr. Sloan. “Industry must assume the role of enlightened industrial statesmanship. It can no longer confine its responsibilities to the mere physical production and distributions of goods and services.” There you have the key to the whole situation. Of what permanent value is a vast industrial structure which fails to meet the greatest needs of the greatest number?” (editorial, April 6, 1936)

“**Berkeley, Calif.** – With virtually no good free land left in the United States for families to settle, the future of the country depends largely on the conservation and conversion to proper use of vast tracts that have been made useless by abuse in the past, believes L. C. Gray, assistant administrator of the resettlement administration. “Less than a century ago,” said Gray, “there were hundreds of thousands of acres of good land in the public domain available to citizens who wanted to stake out a homestead. Today not only is there scarcely an acre of such land but countless thousands of acres that once were profitable have been ruined unless they can be converted to other uses or restored to their original productiveness. Gray cited four great districts in the United States where the misuse of land has not only made it unprofitable but in many cases has reduced the occupants to economic misery. Poverty in great portions of the southern Appalachian mountains where living conditions are particularly severe, he said, is the direct result of an unscientific use of land. The old forest region bordering the Great Lakes which presents a similar problem; the western plains, where the destruction of forests has eliminated moisture and produced dust-storms in recent years, and finally, the old cotton belt of the South, he said, are instances of the misuse of soil that is now causing poverty for great portions of the people ...” (April 6, 1936, p. 14)

“**DENVILLE** – An income tax would be the fairest means of financing New Jersey relief, Ex-Senator Frank D. Abell of Morristown asserted at a meeting of the Denville Republican Club at Wayside Inn last night. “Individuals who are best able to pay should be levied the most heavily,” Abell told the 100 members present. “The fact that real estate can no longer bear the burden—particularly the new burden of relief—is plain in view of the large number of foreclosures on homes. My advocacy of an income tax may some day cost me money, but I am willing to meet it. It is far preferable to a luxury or sales levy, I believe.” The ex-Senator declared he favored local administration of relief. “You men and women right here in Denville,” he said, “know more about who deserves help here than anyone else, and I take it you and other residents throughout the State would do much to cut down the present \$7,500,000 annual administrative cost of relief in New Jersey.” As vice-president of the Morris County Welfare Board, Abell outlined advanced relief methods being used especially in this County to insure maximum effectiveness of welfare work....

The speaker pointed to Morris County’s casting aside of the old children’s home at Parsippany in favor of placing children in private homes where, he said, they develop none of the earmarks of institutional care. The Welfare Home at Shonghum, he stated, is a place of happiness and self-respect rather than a poor house....” (April 7, 1936, p. 1 & 7)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The prospect that municipalities may be forced to assume the burden of financing emergency relief after April 15 became stronger today, with the Assembly adjourned for the week without providing revenue for a nearly depleted treasury....It appeared certain today that the municipalities would have to feed their unemployed as best they can at least until after the primary election May 19. The Democratic minority in the House has voted a solid “no” to all measures to raise relief money by diversions and new taxes, and in seven tries the bickering Republican factions have failed to muster sufficient votes to accomplish anything except further strife....When the Assembly meets again Monday night it will have 36 hours in which to meet a crisis. They met a similar one last month by diverting \$3,000,000 from highway funds. Lawrence A. Cavinato of Bergen, leader of the group opposing new taxes before further economies and diversions are effected, said he would again try to push through his

bill to divert \$2,535,000 from funds that otherwise would go to the counties for rural road aid. The Cavinato bill has already been defeated twice and political observers say it is not likely the counties, who have depended many years upon the state contributions toward rural road maintenance, will permit such a diversion....” (April 8, 1936, p.1)

“**ROCKAWAY** – Edward T. Kelly, 28, in the County jail at Morristown for alleged larceny, may face more serious possible Federal charges for reported thefts of towels, sheets, and pillow-cases from the WPA sewing rooms on West Main street, where he was a janitor. ...Police Chief Alfred Rarick...said Kelly confessed to having traded six dozen stolen sheets for liquor and another dozen for the loan of an automobile. Federal authorities, it is possible, may press charges for appropriation of the dry goods, which were to go to flood sufferers in Pennsylvania....” (April 8, 1936, p.1)

“**BOONTON** – The Board of Education last night revoked permission given to the Recreation Division of the W. P. A. for use of the high school. This follows on the heels of the Leisure Time Advisory Council’s resignation on grounds charging lack of cooperation of W. P. A. authorities. Benjamin P. Batchelder, chairman of the building and grounds committee, reported destruction and theft of property and said he had received “complaint after complaint” about the recreation classes. “It’s been going on for weeks,” he asserted....” (April 8, 1936, p.1)

“The legislature continues to squabble over relief without giving any promise that a settlement is near. With one group persisting for further economies and other battling for new taxes, although it cannot seem to agree on just what form these new levies will take, the average citizen can but sit by and wonder how so many legislators could have been elected without there being one with the power of leadership necessary to lead his bewildered colleagues out of the maze of wrangling into which they have worked themselves. Governor Hoffman...has lost whatever grip he may have had on the situation. Senator Clee, not long ago a prospective governor, has lost much of his prestige, possibly because the less desirable of the governor’s opponents have bedecked themselves with his banner....the rest of the legislature seems content to grope and squabble....Just as many members of the legislature lack even a semblance of statesmanship, there are others who are fully qualified to act under intelligent leadership. Thus it becomes a question whether there is not something wrong with our legislative system. For years observers have ridiculed the failure of the legislature to adopt intelligent legislation.... But now the climax has been reached in the relief muddle. What better proof could be offered that the hope of decent government in New Jersey through intelligent and progressive legislation is lost?.... Other states have tried campaigns to elect more able legislators so that they might prosper under sound laws and constructive legislation. To a lesser or greater degree every state is worried about the failure of its legislature to function intelligently....Failure of the present legislature to adopt a means of raising relief funds is in itself tragic. But how much more regrettable is the realization that under our present system of legislation every similar problem that arises in the future will be handled with similar ineptitude.” (editorial from the Asbury Park Press, printed in The Daily Record April 8, 1936, p.4)

“...The monthly report of the Welfare Board reported 16 new old age grants made and 17 discontinued, leaving a total of 638 persons receiving \$11,189.31 for the month. Over a hundred new applicants, who are present [sic] receiving relief through the Bureau of General Welfare, were made for old age relief under a new law which reduced age and resident requirements. In the Bureau of General Welfare, there were 476 persons, representing 349 families at the beginning of the month, 16 new grants were made and 13 discontinued....The temporary relief phase of the work continued to increase with 60 new cases added during the month, making 289. WPA and Dutch Elm checks kept coming through irregularly....” (April 9, 1936, p.1)

“A great many bowls of soup have been slid across the counter since this country began feeding its depression victims. Billions of dollars have been spent to keep people from starvation. But somehow, with all this, we do not seem to have come very much closer to a realization of our common brotherhood. Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen of New York touched on this point very sensibly in a recent Lenten sermon in

the Metropolis....”In England,” he remarked, “you hear frequently the admonition to support the unemployed classes to ward off a revolution which would be disastrous to the affluent. And the same philosophy is heard increasingly in America. No word is spoken about man’s responsibility to man, nor about the solidarity of society under God.” In other words, our relief work represents a policy of applied selfishness rather than one of brotherly compassion. Give the jobless man a bowl of soup—not because he is your brother man, and is suffering in a way to touch your heart, but because, if he goes hungry too long, he is apt to get up on his hind legs and start smashing things....All this may make little difference to the man who is on relief. A bowl of soup probably tastes about the same when it is given because of fear as it does when a genuine feeling of social responsibility prompts the gift. It is the giver who suffers. For this kind of giving—life insurance giving, you might call it—is merely a reflection of a society which somehow has managed to mislay its soul. The decade of the ‘20s was a time of out-and-out materialism. Its watchword was the traditional jibs of the hungry sailor at the mess kit—“Blow you, Jack, I got mine.” Good things don’t come out of an atmosphere such as that....The depression ought to have been enough to jar us loose from that materialistic outlook. It should have brought us to the point where we would help our brother man because he is our brother man, and not because we are afraid of what he may do if we don’t help him...” (editorial, April 9, 1936)

“The cat is at last out of the bag, and the good citizens of New Jersey are at length aware that Assemblymen and Senators at Trenton, as a group, are not really interested in relief finance....The Legislature and the Senate are downright afraid of assuming any method of relief finance until the primaries are over....the majority fall into the category of panicky politicians who will pass the buck—until they get elected again. Meanwhile the municipalities look helplessly on the disgusting scene....It is all a very inviting picture.” (editorial, April 10, 1936)

“When you find a solidly conservative organ such as the Wall Street Journal reprinting words of wisdom from such left-wing publications as the Daily Worker and the Nation, you are entitled to blink three times, rapidly, from sheer surprise....The Daily Worker thinks that President Roosevelt has flim-flammed the unemployed in his relief budget for the coming year. His proposed appropriations for this purpose, according to the radical newspaper, represent a cut of fully 50 per cent from last year’s fund....Somewhat similar is the complaint of the Nation. This magazine...estimates the actual reduction in the relief budget at 15 per cent in place of the Daily Worker’s 50 per cent....it is scornful of the President’s hope that substantial re-employment by private industry will make the relief burden lighter....The Journal evidently thinks that industry can profitably listen to what radicals have to say about government spending; and it points out that, no matter which way the cat jumps, there is little danger that any jobless man will have to go hungry....” (editorial, April 10, 1936)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The sales tax repeal association said today that if New Jersey’s legislators vote for return of the sales tax they, and not the state league of municipalities, must face “the certain wrath” of the voters....the powerful Essex Republican delegation... announced it would have nothing to do with a general sales or income tax plan. “We hope the legislators of this state do not take your promises too literally,” said the association’s telegram to the league, “for you are not in a position to guarantee ‘protection’ to men who vote for taxes in deliberate and ruthless repudiation of their own and party pre-election promises from the certain wrath of the people whom they will have burdened with unduly heavy taxes in direct disavowal of these pledges....”When you make a blanket invitation to lawmakers, elected in good faith by people who believed their promises to become party with you in what amounts to wholesale betrayal of your people by running out on their pledges, you are in a sense in a position inimical to every sound principle of common decency in public affairs....” (April 13, 1936, p. 1 & 8)

“**BOONTON** – Preference for local control rather than through the County Welfare Board was expressed by the Board of Aldermen at an adjourned session last night....Town Attorney Eugene Hillery advised the Board that he did not believe there is anything in the New Jersey Statute which compels a municipality to

submit to county control.... Regardless of which handles the relief the money will go out of the pocket of the local taxpayer....Charles J. Spies, chairman of the finance committee, estimated the amount to be needed above \$1,000. Hitherto the town has been paying about \$170 on an average per month for its share....” (April 14, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** --Near-passage in the Assembly last night of a “luxury” tax bill, affecting cosmetics, tobacco and amusements, raised hopes of sponsors that tonight, when the House reconvenes, the necessary additional three votes would be obtained....The opponents of taxation, backing the Bergen Republican delegation in efforts to divert \$2,535,000 State rural road funds to relief, suffered a severe defeat...17 to 39....The Democratic minority...gave support last night to a measure designed to apply about \$2,500,000 of unclaimed deposits in State banks to aid the needs....” (April 14, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – “Luxury” taxes on amusements, cigarettes and cosmetics to finance emergency relief faced New Jersey today. The tax bill passed reluctantly by the Assembly after nine defeats, went to the Senate where leaders predicted passage, ending a relief-financing deadlock which has existed since the Legislature convened three months ago....

The bill, imposing a tax of two cents on a pack of 20 cigarettes, a four per cent amusement and a 10 per cent cosmetics tax is expected to yield from \$7,000,000 to \$9,000,000 annually—enough to care for relief for two or three months. Although the tax would not become effective until May 16, and it would be at least another month before revenue became available, the State would “borrow” against the expected revenue from other State funds.....” (April 15, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The State Relief Council voted today to allocate to municipalities its remaining funds, estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000 and suspend state administration of relief. Municipalities were compelled to take over the entire relief burden through failure of the Legislature to provide further state funds. The relief crisis was precipitated by failure of the Senate last night to approve the Assembly Emergency “luxury” tax bill....

Reeve Schley, chairman of the council, said the grant to be made from remaining funds would equal one fourth of the April allocation to each municipality. The 3,080 employees of the state relief administration, he said, would be notified that their employment will cease May 8....” (April 16, 1936, p.1)

“...Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter, President of the Morris County Welfare Board, issued the following statement this morning: “The State Emergency Relief Administration has stopped dispensing relief today in accordance with due warning given by it that such a step would be necessary unless further funds were made available by the State. The understanding of the Morris County Welfare Board is that under these circumstances all temporary or out-of-door relief in Morris County must be dispensed through it, as set forth in Sec. 37, Chap. 375, P.L. 1931. It has, therefore, arranged to have relief orders mailed today to persons whose eligibility has previously been determined by the E. R. A. These clients received their last food orders on April 1st and would now be without food if this action were not taken immediately. More detailed plans can be worked out later.”....

Out of those on relief now, 58 families constituting about 250 people, represent unemployables or those who could not work even if they had jobs....

DOVER – “We will be able to carry on without state aid,” declared Mayor John Roach today, pointing out that the number on relief is the lowest in five years, due to WPA jobs.

FLORHAM PARK – Only four local families are on relief and the cost has averaged \$100 per month. John B. Barradale, relief director, said that the borough will be satisfied to take care of its own unemployed.

MT. ARLINGTON – Municipal problems in having relief dumped in its lap will not worry this little borough any for it has handled its own cases all of the time and has not been dependent on the state.....

RIVERDALE -- William V. Scinski, chairman of the local relief board, declared that “home administration of relief is a decided advantage” at a meeting of the borough council. The borough is handling its own relief and Scinski said that less expenditures were made and a greater return on the funds was enjoyed through work performed by recipients. He said that a great number of relief clients,

disgruntled because of more stringent regulations laid down by the local board, were quitting relief and obtaining jobs.

SUCCASUNNA – The Roxbury Township Committee provided \$8,064 in its budget to meet relief and so far the costs have run between \$3,000 and \$5,300 a month.

CHATHAM – For its size Chatham boasts one of the smallest relief lists with only one family and two other individuals getting relief. For this reason Mayor Gilbert D. Hedden is confident the borough can take care of its own problems.....

BOONTON – The local monthly contribution for relief has been only \$167 out of the total of \$1,150 for 53 families of 190 persons and Samuel Harris, emergency relief director, says Boonton has made no provision to take the full responsibility of giving relief....

PEAPACK GLADSTONE – The twin-boroughs has taken care of its own relief cases for the past three years and there have very few people, except those too old to work, on the lists.

MADISON – Mayor Wilson S. Morris declared the return of relief administration to the municipality as “unfair to lots” but believes that Madison can handle its entire relief burden temporarily as WPA projects have lightened the number of cases considerably. Only 33 families are now receiving direct aid and when spring employment picks up this may be cut further....

BERNARDSVILLE – It is believed there is sufficient funds here to carry on for several months at the present cost of about \$800 a month for 32 families, comprising 127 individuals....” (April 16, 1936, p. 1 and 2)

“Some young men of today may have the occasion in the not too distant future to really bless the WPA. Yesterday the Domestic Training School six weeks course, conducted under WPA auspices and attended by twelve Morris County girls, was completed. The girls were trained in cooking, house cleaning, setting table and use of electric appliances with three expert dieticians being among those in charge of the course. While the girls may get employment as housekeepers it is most likely that most will put their talents to work in their own homes. Because of lack of new students the school is closing temporarily but may reopen if enough new registrations are received.” (April 18, 1936, p.1)

“Local handling of relief under direct supervision of Town Clerk Nelson S. Butera as more economical and efficient and doing away with the “entirely too lavish” staff of the ERA was favored by the Board of last night. The Board will seek to use its influence to have the entire proceeding changed so that when the Legislature tackles relief again it will provide for direct payment of 75 percent of the money to the municipality....Chairman Ed F. Broderick of the Relief Committee introduced a resolution that the Town should have its own representative pass on every relief case in town and the approval of the Town must be given before any money is paid. Any time the Town needs an employable person the County Welfare Board—into whose care the handling of relief goes when the state aid expires—shall notify that person to appear and if he does not he will be taken off the relief rolls. The Town Clerk was designated as representative of the Board, working in cooperation with all departments. Broderick charged that some municipalities around here say [sic] can’t find places to rent at \$15 a month and move their relief people into Morristown, unloading them on the town. He cited another case of a family of 11, living with the grandmother who was able to care for them, but she was demanding rent....A force of 29 ERA employees seems like a large force, said Broderick, and he believed that the Town, with four people, could take it over and run it. Alderman Stephen Whitney spoke for the plan of local representation and not leaving the door open for the County Welfare Board to control. Counsel N. C. Toms explained existing laws. As long as the state continued to contribute support it had the absolute right to make rules, he said, but when it was not then its rules couldn’t hold. The Welfare Board had no right to spend any money without the consent of the Town, he said, and pointed out that only Morris and Warren Counties in the state had welfare boards....He could see no reason why the Board could not make terms as to the right to say where the money was going....” (April 18, 1936, p.1)

“Maybe we’ve lost our ability to worry about waste, or maybe the waste of a man isn’t as important as that of a bushel of wheat or a crate of steel castings; anyway, we don’t seem to understand that the most tragic waste in America today is that represented by unemployment....The presence in this country of some 40,000,000 intelligent, active men is a resource such as few nations have ever possessed. When a

fourth of these men can find nothing useful to do, and must at public expense be kept from starving, a waste of unimaginable magnitude is taking place. The money we have to spend to keep these men fed and housed is not the real waste; neither are the footling, picayunish jobs we invent to keep them occupied. The real waste is the simple, tragic fact that this great army of men who might be busy are idle....” (editorial, April 18, 1936)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – Stormed with louder protests from municipalities that have had to feed their own unemployed four days and don’t like, and threatened with a 25,000-man “hunger march” by the organized jobless, the Legislature will return to the State House tonight for another try at finding relief money. Rumors persisted that some of the senators who voted against the Assembly’s “luxury” tax bill Wednesday night would “knuckle under” tonight in response to “the heat” being applied from all sides, but a check of the senators that could be reached revealed none of them would switch his stand. “The best thing we ever did,” said the Democratic Senator William H. Smathers of Atlantic, “was to give the relief job back to the municipalities. I’ve been having heart-to-heart talks with the Mayors in my County. From what they tell me, about half the people on the relief rolls either have jobs or own three or four pieces of property. You can bet the municipalities will get busy now and do some trimming.”...Many municipalities contend they cannot feed their unemployed even until the Primary elections. Some have diverted money from various sources to last a short while....The loudest protests have come from industrial communities. Trenton has flatly refused to be responsible for relief after today, and South Hackensack, which says it has only \$50 available for relief and intends to use that to buy milk for children, has called upon the Federal government to do something about it. At first Mayor Sebastian Ruta sought aid from the American Red Cross, but that organization said it could not step in. Last night he sent a plea to President Roosevelt....” (April 20, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – There is a possibility the Senate will pass the “luxury” tax bill tonight. If so, Democratic votes will be needed, and Alexander Crawford, Hague’s contact man in Trenton, says he will release enough Senators to put over the measure the same as he did in the Assembly. But there is a possibility the bill will be amended so as to include jewelry, high-priced automobiles and fur coats. If so no objection will be raised in the House by the Clean Government forces as they agreed to such amendment when the Hoffman supporters facetiously remarked that the “luxury” tax would only reach the poor and not such moneyed men as Everett Colby, William H. Seeley and Arthur Vanderbilt, leaders of the Clean Government group who drive Packards, wear diamonds and buy fur coats....Why the Governor Hoffman wing of the Republican party in Trenton refuses to support the bill but stubbornly insists upon a general sales tax is more than political strategists can understand. Why, asks Crawford who maneuvers Democratic legislators like men on a chess board, are Republicans willing to let the Democratic party have credit for relieving the relief situation?....” (April 20, 1936, p.7, by Wood Vance)

“When the battle smoke of a long depression begins to lift a little bit, most of us jump to the conclusion that any man who wasn’t actually knocked off his feet by unemployment and poverty is a very lucky man indeed, one who ought to be going his way without a care in the world. This idea would be perfectly sound if human beings just didn’t have any nerves. Unfortunately, they do have them—and the depression can do terrible things to them, even where a man has held his job right straight through from 1929. Margaret Culkin Banning, author, touched on this point in a recent address....“There is delusion spreading over the United States that security is a donation of government, that it is a matter of legislation and new taxes,” she said. “But when the best that governments can do has been done, the insecurity that we feel in the world today will not be destroyed.... In the old days we assumed that certain things were natural and enduring; that the world would always have a place for an ambitious young man, that honest work and fidelity to duty would always reap a suitable reward, that the man who applied himself to his job intelligently and energetically would never need to worry about his future....But the depression, for a great many people, ended this comfortable old conception. When there are no jobs at all, an ambitious young man can hunt himself blind without finding his place. When businesses are going broke in droves, honesty and fidelity may not do the individual worker any good whatsoever. And a man’s prospects for the future may not depend in the least upon himself, but instead may hang on forces which he cannot hope

to understand or to foresee...this feeling of uncertainty and doubt is clouding the American dream itself.” (editorial, April 22, 1936)

“Members of the Board of Aldermen met with the County Welfare Board representatives in a conference last night to work out details for the handling of relief locally....The County Board was concerned chiefly in seeing that relief was given to all entitled to it. There might be too great variations of relief if administered locally by various governing bodies, it pointed out, and therefore there was a need for definite plans....Eligibility rules established were that one year’s residence must be proved and a person must be practically a pauper. The amount of food to be allowed, temporary care of medical needs and other details were worked out. The question of the amount of rent to be paid was left unsettled. The Aldermen have approximately \$3,500 in the poor fund and \$15,237 in their emergency relief appropriation. There had been 164 families, representing 529 persons on relief, when the task was thrown back on the town but due to seasonal employment...the number of cases has now been reduced to 119. It is expected that this number will be cut even more in a short time. Of the 119, there are about 52 families classes an [sic] unemployables. The April cost of relief was estimated at \$3,434....” (April 23, 1936, p.1 & 11)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The group of jobless men, holding a marathon mock session of the New Jersey Assembly in the Assembly chamber, moved down the State House corridor into the marble-panelled Senate chamber today. State authorities had asked the group to leave its quarters to permit Civil Service examination to be held in the Assembly room but the group refused to go anywhere but to the Senate chamber. After an hour of negotiations between representatives of the group, state officials and the Rev. Robert Smith, Trenton minister, who was called in as an intermediary, the State House custodian, Parker Sweet, announced the unemployed could occupy the Senate room. The agreement was that no more than 20 would be allowed on the floor as there are only 20 seats—all upholstered—and the rest would be obliged to sit in the balcony. The group, carrying a coffee urn, thick china coffee mugs, bags of sandwiches and a few blankets, walked quietly down the corridor and continued their siege there. They said they would not leave the State House until the Legislature provided emergency relief funds which became exhausted last Thursday. The transfer of the men and the cleaning of the littered floor delayed the Civil Service examinations more than an hour.” (April 23, 1936, p.1)

OCCUPY TRENTON

A photograph on page 14 shows the “army of occupation” in the Assembly chamber where they “held a mock session and later served meals at the desks”. (Associated Press Photo, April 23, 1936)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“**TRENTON, (AP)** --The Assembly chamber which has been occupied by the unemployed persons since Tuesday, except for a brief period yesterday when they moved to the Senate, was thronged with the jobless.” (April 24, 1936, p.1)

“**NEWARK** – Another chapter in that tawdry novel entitled “Relief—The Way Out?” began here this afternoon as disorganized. Assembly and Senate leaders called off their previously scheduled Trenton sessions and put their heads together in an effort to end the legislative deadlock. Meanwhile in Trenton a haggard, weary band of unemployed bivouacked on the floor of the Assembly, eating, sleeping and staging more “sessions” and in some quarters it was believed that the legislators, wary of sparking a more violent rebellion, had met here to carry on the normal routine of State business. Officially, of course, the cancellation of the Assembly meeting which had been called for today was couched in less realistic terms. Assembly Speaker Marcus Newcomb of Burlington announced: “Since it is impossible upon such short notice to assemble both houses this week, and in view of the important conferences to be held by legislators today and tomorrow in relation to the relief problem, I am canceling the call for the House of Assembly session today. Something definite must be done by both houses as a solution of the relief problem is imperative. Be present at Monday night’s session and be prepared to remain in Trenton until the problem is solved.” ” ((April 24, 1936, p.1)

“DENVILLE – Relief finance will be handled locally, it was decided at a conference of township committeemen and representatives of the Morris County Welfare Board and County ERA at the office of Dr. W. Moore Gould last night. The action taken will involve Denville in no immediate financial embarrassment. The sum of \$2,300 remains in the relief and poor budget accounts, and monthly expenditures for relief will not appreciably exceed \$300 if unemployment does not grow more acute. Committeeman Charles W. Rodgers, Sr., was appointed local relief director, and with him will lie the responsibility for investigating the...persons applying for help. He will work with Dr. Gould, the township road chairman, in allowing relief clients to labor on the roads during the Summer. The welfare board will remain in general supervision, and it will continue to shoulder finance for those clients who are on permanent relief because they are unemployable....” (April 23, 1936, p.1)

“The Neptune Township Committee probably doesn’t expect to “get away with it,” but its bold announcement that the state’s failure to continue caring for the needy would result in its deduction of the costs of relief from its tax payments to the state will intensify disgust with the legislature’s failure to meet its admitted responsibility. Neptune, like scores of other municipalities, is not equipped to accept the relief burden. It does not possess the revenue raising facilities at the disposal of the state nor the borrowing power. Furthermore, it had a right to expect that the state would continue to supply relief as it has in the past and laid its plans accordingly. It is now too late to revise them and meet an unexpected obligation. So Neptune has expressed its resentment with a dramatic threat. It will pay the cost of relief and then deduct it from taxes it must turn over to the state. Legal opinion will question the township committee’s right to take such action, but more practical souls will wonder what will happen should it carry out the threat. As Attorney General Wilentz notes, the state has ways of collecting taxes from municipalities, but experience has shown that they do not always work. Under ordinary circumstances Neptune’s action would seem rash. Contempt for the usual and possibly legal procedure is not always excusable. But extreme laxity calls for extreme remedies....a municipal strike may be justified by the gravity of the situation in which the legislature’s fumbling with the relief problem has thrust it....” (Asbury Park Press editorial, appearing in The Daily Record April 24, 1936, p.4)

“Work is the “only sound social method of providing natural and normal lives for the jobless,” Assistant State WPA Administrator Lewis E. Compton asserted at a luncheon for 200 administration employees at the Woman’s Community Club. “The only answer to America’s problem of unemployment is work, work for wages,” Compton stated, having denounced as inadequate and hazardous the past experiments of direct relief, food orders, and the cash dole. He described the abandoned methods as “cheaper in money costs, but more expensive in human values than the WPA,” and called the administration’s projects “stimuli to morale.” Compton quoted from President Roosevelt’s Newark address, in which it was declared that “direct relief is a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit, and in the long run the most damaging and expensive form of relief aid.”....Miss Catherine Donaldson....reported 15,000 garments have been produced in the ten sewing rooms to date, together with 1,500 dozen sheets and pillow cases. Almost 3,000 garments were sent from the district to flood victims....The luncheon was served by WPA workers. Mrs. Dean D. McCall sang and the WPA symphony orchestra, directed by Nicholas Farella, played.” (April 24, 1936, p.8)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“TRENTON – No one seems to know why a special session of the New Jersey Assembly was called for 10 o’clock yesterday morning when the Legislature is to meet Monday night. No one seems to know why it was suddenly called off except Speaker Marcus Newcomb....Daily the mystery of New Jersey Legislature grows more and more mysterious. There are secret conferences, whispered conversations, caucuses of Hoffman spenders, Bergen County economists, Clean Government groups, Hague Democrats and anti-Hague Democrats. Yet, nothing happens....Round and round goes the relief. It comes up here and there, but it doesn’t butter any parsnips or feed the army of unemployed bivouacked in the Assembly chambers. It will probably come up again Monday night when both houses meet. What will happen no man can tell right now. Most anything can happen. In the meantime the army is tenting on the old camp grounds of the Assembly. Its officers have the boys and girls pretty under control. Some of them look tacky which would be expected after fifty-six hours of sitting in the House. But they are orderly, well fed

from donations sent in by sympathizing grocermen and other merchants, and in burlesque put on a fairly good performance of the one hundred and sixtieth session of the New Jersey Assembly. Yesterday the "Assembly" went into session at about the time set for the regular session of the House. The "clerk" read telegrams from unemployed alliances around the country pledging support and offering to send delegations on to Trenton to reinforce the first lines of defense. In the seats occupied on session nights by two Assemblywomen from Essex County sat two colored "Assemblywomen" from somewhere. Both were inhaling cigarette smoke and nodding assent to various motions put by the "speaker" of the House. Other "Assemblywomen" brought along their knitting and their cigarettes. "Mr. Spee-ker," shouted one "Assemblyman" in imitation of the Harvard accent of Majority Leader Lawrence Cavinato. "I move you, sir, we send a telegram to Dr. Clee and Dr. Newcomb as follows: 'Request this run around cease. Public long suffering, but...the worm will turn.' "....And so the show went on. And it's going on day and night. It promises to continue, Sunday included, until the Assembly meets Monday night when the seats may be vacated for the regularly chosen representatives of the people." (April 25, 1936, p. 1 & 9; author, Wood Vance)

"Possible permanent solutions of the unemployment and relief situations will be discussed by a Republican, a Democrat, and a Socialist at a forum to be sponsored by the Morristown Community Forum Committee at the Alexander Hamilton School next Wednesday evening. The Republican will be County Clerk E. Bertram Mott, the Democrat Thomas Glynn Walker, Assembly minority leader at Trenton, and the Socialist

Frank Crosswaith, well known New York City attorney. Mott has made a complete study of unemployment and...relief problems in New Jersey, and is equipped with a wealth of relevant facts. Glynn has been in Trenton in constant touch with emergency relief measures. Crosswaith is a brilliant speaker who has devoted much of his time to the matters to be discussed. The lecturers will argue on both a State and a national basis, on both immediate and long term solutions of unemployment...." (April 25, 1936, p.2)

"**TRENTON, (AP)** – Leaders of New Jersey's jobless ordered their forces concentrated at the state capital today to impress returning legislators, whose seats they occupied six days, with the necessity of providing relief funds. Ray Cooke, state chairman of the Workers' Alliance, said he expected from 5,000 to 7,000 unemployed to join a mass demonstration and demand that the Legislature, which for four months has failed to agree on a relief financing program, finally do so. State officials, commenting on the good behavior of the 50 to 200 persons who lived in the Assembly and Senate chambers day and night since the Legislature adjourned last Tuesday, said they expected no disorder tonight....Governor Hoffman who urged the Legislature to stop "temporizing" with the relief problem, has remained largely on the sidelines since the Legislature repealed his 2 per cent sales tax last October...." (April 27, 1936, p.1)

OCCUPY TRENTON

"**TRENTON, (AP)** – Powell Johnson, secretary of the Workers' Alliance, whose members have held possession of the New Jersey Assembly chamber night and day since Tuesday afternoon, said today the group would surrender the chamber when the lawmakers return to their desks tonight....It was understood the State Police would detail 40 or 50 troopers to stand in the State House corridors as is usually done when demonstrations are conducted in or near the capitol. Several thousand of the unemployed were expected to come to Trenton from various sections of the State to take part in a State House demonstration on behalf of the unemployed....More than a hundred members of the Workers' Alliance spent their sixth night sleeping in the Assemblymen's swivel chairs last night. They have subsisted on coffee, bread, cold meats and macaroni donated by Trenton merchants and friends of the group. Yesterday morning they conducted prayer services and listened to a sermon by the Rev. Robert Smith of the Grace Episcopal Church, Trenton. Mr. Smith told the shabby men and women to "keep up the fight," and invoked the deity to "break down all smugness and self-complacency and lead all men to be more indignant of injustice, more indignant of oppression and deprivation." In the evening hundreds of spectators in white collars and fur coats watched the good-natured jobless poke fun at the Assemblymen in their sixth "evening session" of a mock legislative meeting. They adopted a resolution "appropriating \$1,000 to permit Governor Harold G. Hoffman and Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City to go to Alaska

and survey the Alaska salmon, its life, loves and tax problems, so the New Jersey Legislature will be free to do its duty without outside influence.”....” (April 27, 1936, p.1)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“**TRENTON** – “Watchman, what of the night.” For centuries this question has been asked in the onward march of civilization. Tonight it will be upon the lips of the ever increasing army of “unoccupation” clinging to seats in the New Jersey Assembly, storming the galleries, and flooding the corridors of the State House. Tonight it will be asked of legislators about to begin deliberations upon the burning issue of relief. It will be demanded of those leaders who have tentatively agreed upon a plan of municipal control with State aid. Will the Legislature do anything? That has become a threadbare interrogation. So many times it has been asked. So many times it has been negatively answered. Now the Assembly finds itself banked on all sides by men and women desperate for want of proper food and clothing, egged on to insurrection by a sprinkling of communists. The situation is serious. It is no time to play petty politics. There’s a modern battle of Trenton in the making. Outside of burlesque shows put on in the Assembly chambers by these unoccupied citizens and some aliens the men are in earnest. So far they have been orderly, and have the support of Governor Hoffman. For this reason they have been permitted to remain in the State House although the advertisement throughout the country is not relished by the good people of New Jersey....Assemblyman Frank S. Kelley, of Morris County, favors the municipal plan. He was called into conference Saturday with Senator Clee, of Essex, Speaker Marcus Newcomb, of the House, and a delegation of Clean Government leaders. Kelley’s advice has been sought by all factions. Several times he warned the House that unless some comprehensive plan for relief was effected the Legislature would be confronted with just the situation it finds itself in today. But what of tonight? Kelley will not venture an opinion....will anything happen? (April 27, 1936, p. 1 & 2; author, Wood Vance)

“**WASHINGTON** – The strong movement in Congress to gum up the WPA continuation program by earmarking for public works some \$700,000,000 of a proposed \$1,500,000,000 appropriation comes straight from the hearts of its promoters. Unborn babies in the form of thousands of fondly imagined city halls, school buildings, hospitals, and sewer systems are crying for a right to exist, and the cries become particularly poignant in a year when every congressman has to run for renomination and reelection. Those public works were promised, publicly bragged about by Democratic congressmen, and funds actually appropriated for them by Congress....Town meetings were held, plans drawn, and bond issues voted after Congress thought it had earmarked \$900,000,000 of the work relief fund for non-federal PWA loan-grant projects and \$450,000,000 for housing projects. The whole PWA program was based on those figures—until Roosevelt cut them down to \$330,000,000 and \$100,000,000 respectively....PWA now claims to be employing, directly and indirectly, about 800,000 people. This number will fall off sharply toward the end of the summer and dwindle to probably about 100,000 by the first of the year. By election time the effect of the decline in PWA operations may be painfully obvious in the steel and cement industries....” (**Daily Washington Letter**, by Rodney Dutcher, April 27, 1936, p.4)

“THE SIEGE OF TRENTON

There is no authority for the report that the newspaper men who “covered” the mock meeting of the assembly being staged by unemployed workers at first thought that the assembly itself was in session. Rather it is understood that they recognized the distinction at first glance upon observing that the hungry men and women mimicking the antics of the legislature were willing to do a job if they could find one. Less can be said about the assemblymen who have been duly elected for reasons yet unexplained. Doubtless there was an even more noticeable distinction. For even though we haven’t ourselves gazed upon the burlesque of legislators at work it is our guess that the army of unemployed who have camped in the assembly chamber conduct themselves with more decorum than the regular assembly. Needless to say, they could not go through the antics of legislation with less order than the ordained legislators. In fact, reports of the orderly manner in which they are lampooning the assembly indicate that members of the legislature might learn a lesson by observing the proceedings of the jobless “lawmakers.”....The suggestion might even be in order that the unemployed now sitting in the assembly chamber be given jobs by naming them to the assembly. The only problem then would be what to do with jobless assemblymen.” (Asbury Park Press editorial, appearing in The Daily Record April 27, 1936, p.4)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – The unemployed, who for seven days have occupied the New Jersey assembly chamber, continued in possession of it today as Republican legislative leaders sought in conference to agree on a relief financing program and ease the present crisis. The small band of jobless, rebuffed last night by the legislature which refused to vote on a relief program, decided to form a farmer-labor party and use it to carry on its fight for the unemployed and “adequate relief.” Tired from their long siege of the State House, some of the jobless, who have slept in swivel chairs or on floors for a week, moved to end their occupation of the assembly chamber but were voted down by others who said the legislature would consider it an admission of defeat. The group decided to stay on at least until Wednesday when the legislature will return. Before a crowd of 1000 which packed the galleries and floor of the chamber last night, one of the unemployed’s leaders, Ray Cooke, chairman of the workers alliance, gave the lie to Assemblyman J. Parnell Thomas, Bergen Republican, which provoked several Assemblymen to denounce the unemployed’s “vulgar and burlesque demonstration.” Referring to Thomas’s telegram to Governor Harold C. Hoffman calling the group “professional agitators,” Cooke, given the privilege of the floor, shouted: “I want to tell Thomas to his face that he’s a liar.” Instantly, the assembly was in an uproar. One assemblyman said to the legislators[sic] refused to be “browbeaten,” and another moved Cooke be ejected. Privileges of the floor were finally withdrawn. Two resolutions were offered in quick succession. One called upon Governor Hoffman to censure those responsible for permitting the unemployed to burlesque the legislature. It termed the action “an unwarranted insult to the dignity of this house and sovereign state.” The other resolution, which was tabled, would have had the Attorney General investigate all those participating in the demonstration to ascertain if they were from New Jersey and bona fide relief clients....” (April 28, 1936, p.1)

“The depression has decreased the weight of children between the ages of six and nine, and malnutrition has increased, especially among the poor, according to Dr. Elda Robb of Teachers College, Columbia University. While admitting that reduced diets would be temporarily safe, she added that eventually there would be a bad effect on the health of young persons....Dr. Robb recommend [sic] a diet which she says would cost only \$.25 per day per child and still be nourishing. The diet is as follows: for breakfast—oat meal, milk, tomato juice and cod liver oil; for lunch—potatoes, carrots, eggs, whole wheat bread, milk and prunes; for supper—wheat cereal, milk, and banana....It should be noted, however, that the diet suggested by Dr. Robb is hardly possible for families on relief in New Jersey. Consider a family of two adults and five children, with a food allowance from ERA of \$14.90 every 15 days. But at 25c per day per child, the cost for 15 days for feeding the children on Dr. Robb’s diet would be \$18.75. Even the fact that the \$14.90 allowance is in addition to free milk would not make enough difference to enable the father and mother to keep body and soul together. It is contemplation of such facts as these that ought to bring New Jersey’s legislators to a more sincerely serious approach to the problem of financing relief. The Robb diet is hardly a diet of luxury.” (editorial from the Jersey Journal, appearing in The Daily Record April 28, 1936, p.4)

OCCUPY TRENTON

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – New Jersey’s unemployed, who for nine days have occupied the state Assembly chamber as a protest against the Legislature’s failure to provide relief funds, demanded “immediate action” today and offered a four-tax program of their own to solve the crisis. As legislators returned to the capital for another of their many sessions to try to break the deadlock prevent [sic] enactment of a relief program, the unemployed called for passage of a graduated income tax bill, a tax on surpluses of corporations and taxes on excess profits and intangible property. They said they were against a sales tax “as taxing the poor to feed the poor.” “In the name of the thousands of hungry unemployed,” they said in a plea to the Legislature, “the Workers’ Alliance of New Jersey calls upon you to lay aside all political consideration and fearlessly serve the citizens of the state you were elected to represent.” (April 29, 1936, p.1)

“**DOVER** – Cancellation of half the 10 per cent pay cuts made effective two years ago was announced today as local teachers received new contracts from the Board of Aldermen....”

(April 29, 1936, p.1)

“**NETCONG** --There are 29 local families on relief and plans are that food orders will be issued in return for work. [Councilman Louis P.] Huyler believes the number on relief will be cut in half when the lists are revised.” (April 29, 1936, p.1)

“**MORRISTOWN FORUM COMMITTEE** Presents **How Can We Adjust Unemployment And Relief?** to be discussed by **E. BERTRAM MOTT, REPUBLICAN; JAMES BAKER, DEMOCRAT; HERMAN NEISSNER, SOCIALIST** at the **Alexander Hamilton School Tonight 8:15 P.M.** (April 29, 1936, p.7)

OCCUPY TRENTON

On page 14, April 29, 1936 appear three photographs of the unemployed occupiers of the Legislature. The caption of one of the photos reads “Routed from the floor of the assembly room in the Capitol at Trenton, N. J., when lawmakers met to consider demands for immediate relief legislation, the “army of unoccupation” withdrew to the gallery. The relief rebels are shown standing by their guns on the new “front line.” ” [The “guns” are convictions, not firearms.]

“**ROCKAWAY** – The borough will investigate and finance its own relief cases, it was decided at a conference of local and County welfare officials yesterday afternoon. Food orders will be given the unemployed and they will be put to work in borough departments, Councilman Floyd Hiler told the Daily Record after the meeting. He said that clients who refuse to work will get no orders. Police Chief Alfred J. Rarick was appointed to investigate the worthiness of applicants for public help. He will act under the general supervision of the Morris County Welfare Board. It was intimated the borough will attempt to cut relief costs to the lowest possible limit, but there was no suggestion that persons willing to work will be deprived in any fashion. The Welfare Board will care for unemployables. From January 1 to April 15 of this year, \$4,900 was spent on relief here. The borough contributed \$600 of the total amount. During the period named there was an average of 60 cases representing 240 persons on the rolls. The load became somewhat lighter the first half of April.” (April 30, 1936, p.1)

“There were no indications of distress today as relief went back to Morris County towns and the ERA office at 17 South street closed down. Throughout the County, aldermen, councilmen, and township committeemen were confident their municipalities will be able to shoulder relief finance, in some cases for many months to come. Budget appropriations in the emergency relief and poor accounts were seen as adequate to meet the immediate situation even in municipalities where local finance has reached a low ebb. Certain town fathers have expressed themselves as believing they can cut ERA costs in half. They are at the present, however, faced with an unemployment load believed the least critical in the past five years. It is also generally felt that local investigation of applicants for help will exert a healthy effect. During the past year, governing bodies have apparently revolted against a condition in which, they said, persons undeserving of relief have been its recipients. Local investigators recently appointed are already beginning to probe the worthiness of applicants as agents similar to the old overseers of the poor. Morris County appears indifferent, for the present at least, to whether or not the Legislature at Trenton votes adequate finance and puts the State once more into the relief business. Municipalities are adopting wholesale a scheme under which clients who do not work shall not eat. Employment in local road, water, and sewer departments will be offered in exchange for food orders issued locally. It is believed men who will not work will be arrested for non-support so that their families can get food through other than a municipal source. Food orders issued by towns will be billed to the Morris County Welfare Board on the first of each month, and the board will finance the orders until the fifteenth of each month, when they will be charged back to municipalities for final payment. The indirect process is required by law. Many towns in the County have adopted a policy that they will not be responsible for rents. It is indicated, however, that in extreme cases the towns, having decided worthiness, will foot rental bills as a temporary measure. Four towns have asked the welfare board to continue investigation of their relief cases, and the board stands ready to probe clients in any other municipalities asking for the service. The ERA office today turned back 45 active cases to the municipalities. Seasonal employment is apparent in the figure,

for on March 1 there were 1,036 cases and on the fifteenth of April only 684. These totals contrast sharply with the ERA's peak load in March, 1935, when there were 3,153 cases. The Welfare board will continue to handle 281 unemployables and 650 old age cases now on its records...." (April 30, 1936, p.1 & 7)

"Some new form of taxation is requisite for relief finance in New Jersey, a Republican, a Democrat, and a Socialist agree at a Morristown Community Forum at Alexander Hamilton School last night. More than 100 attended. County Clerk E. Bertram Mott declared himself in favor of a "modified" two percent sales tax that would except food and medicine. He asserted real estate has reached its taxable limit and said he doubted that state economies alone could produce sufficient funds for relief. Mott advocated the discontinuance of the State school tax, declaring municipalities could help meet their relief rolls with the money saved. It is unfair to make owners of real estate, comprising only 15 percent of the people, shoulder the weight of relief, James Baker of Jersey City, formerly a member of the State Board of Taxation, told the forum. He claimed it was the patriotic duty of all to share finance of the unemployed, but he warned there can be no remedy without a leader who does not fear political ostracism. Herman Neissner of Camden, Socialist candidate for the United States Senate, favored an income tax rather than a sales tax on the ground that the former recognizes differential abilities to pay...." (April 30, 1936, p.1)

"**TRENTON** – A miracle occurred here last night. In fact, two or three of them. First, good old Dr. Marcus W. Newcomb, the erstwhile vacillating Speaker of the House, and Henry Clay compromiser, actually cleared the floor of the Assembly of curious and otherwise unoccupied persons thereby permitting the Assembly to function until after midnight without outside interference....Another thing happened. The House voted a bill to create the State House Commission a relief agency, and a setup of municipal control of relief. It's a rather complicated and peculiar bill, yet the product of the best minds of both houses of the legislature. Also, it's purely an administration bill. That is, it places all power of relief distribution in the hands of Governor Hoffman and his cabinet. Therefore, municipalities desiring state aid had better keep in the good graces of the Governor—perhaps work for his election as delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention. But here's the joker in this bill. It doesn't provide any ways or means of getting relief money. That is to come later. A conference has been called for Monday afternoon of Republican senators and assemblymen to agree on some plan of taxation. And the bill does not become operative until an act to provide funds becomes a law. When that happens here is the way Morristown, or any other municipality, will receive state aid....

In plain language the municipality must levy a three mill tax on all real estate. Then and only then will the Governor and his cabinet consisting of the State House Commission, consider relief. And then, mark you, it's not mandatory. It's within the discretion of the Commission. However, it's a step toward solving the relief. And to the astonishment of the Republicans the Democrats in the House, with the exception of two, voted for the bill. Their spokesman, the genial Mr. Crawford, of Hague domination, declared early in the evening the Democrats would vote against it. But there was a hurried telephone call for Mr. Crawford just before the bill came up for passage. Here's the reason. The bill provides for the appointment by the Commission of a director and fourteen assistant directors to "receive and review request" for distribution of funds to municipalities "and to fix their compensation." Finally the army of "unoccupation" has dispersed and gone home. This was decided upon by its leaders after a resolution was put through the House by Assemblyman Paul that the Assembly chambers be reserved for Assemblymen and attaches only. "Well," said one of the agitators, "we made these guys pass a relief bill, so we can go back home now and tell the rest of the boys we did somethin' for the good of the cause of unemployment. We're going to organize now and elect some of our crowd to the legislature and get our rights." " (April 30, 1936, p. 1 & 7; author Wood Vance)

MAY THROUGH JULY 1936

"**TRENTON, (AP)** – The signature of Governor Harold G. Hoffman on two bills was all that was needed today to complete the formal return of the administration of relief in New Jersey to the municipalities, a task they actually assumed two weeks ago when state funds were exhausted....In conformance with the

legislative action, the State Emergency Relief Administration terminated the services of more than 2,300 employees yesterday....The chief concern of the municipalities is adoption by the legislature of a program to raise funds to aid them in financing relief. This the legislature failed to do in a number of sessions at which various tax proposals were rejected. Republican leaders have been meeting the past several days in an attempt to reach an agreement on relief financing, but they conceded yesterday there was little hope of passing a tax program before the May 19 primary election....a state board, composed of members of the State House Commission, is created as a supervisory agency. The board will apportion state relief funds, if they are made available. Though the ERA employees were dismissed, State Relief Director Albert H. Hedden said "we have from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 worth of invoices and bills which have to be put through and we have to terminate negotiations with 8,000 to 10,000 vendors with whom ERA has been doing business." " (May 1, 1936, p.1)

"Now that even the economy forces at Trenton are demanding new taxes the less suspecting might think that every possible economy had been effected. On the contrary, but a comparatively few pennies have been saved while the state continues to spend millions more than taxpayers can afford to pay....virtually all state departments continue to operate on a luxury basis, defending their extravagance with the announcement that citizens demand the public services they alone can provide.

<http://mcl.mainlib.org/depression>