

The Great Depression, Morris County, NJ
as seen through the pages of the Daily Record
August-September 1936

“President Roosevelt’s commission assigned to study European co-operatives has completed its examination of Sweden’s vast profit-sharing store system, profoundly impressed. They found in Sweden a \$100,000,000 annual retail business, lower prices, and dividend payments to members of co-operatives. A third of this country’s population of 6,200,000 were members of the 4144 stores. The co-operative program, the commission was informed, proved a major factor in softening the depression for Sweden, and helped to restore prosperity. Though few people are aware of it, the co-operative movement has shown a surprising growth in America, in the last few years. To private business, the co-operatives constitute competition which cannot be ignored, and the whole movement calls for the closest study.” (editorial, August 1, 1936)

“J. Francis Moroney, WPA District Director here, said today that 70 WPA projects, employing 919 persons, are operating in Morris County....Since WPA began operations in Morris County last year, 27 projects have been completed. Thirty-four projects applied for and approved have not yet started. Of the completed jobs, seven were on highways, five on sewers and other drainage; three were conservation projects; four were for public recreation facilities; one was in professional-technical classification; and six were of other unclassified descriptions....Work in progress includes 37 highway, public building, sewer and other construction projects, employing 432 men. Of these, 325 are unskilled, 47 are skilled, 26 are intermediate, and 34 have supervisory work. There are 27 service projects, employing 272 women and 148 men; 124 unskilled, 60 intermediate, 101 skilled. Thirty-six have professional-technical status and 29 are supervisors. There are six WPA projects going on under Federal supervision, employing 56 men and 11 women. They include music, art, writers’ projects and historical surveys. Under the National

Youth Administration, 28 young men and 17 young women in Morris County are working part time.” (Aug. 3, 1936, p.1)

“New Jersey must be pardoned for blushing as it reads the plaudits of its neighbors over the manner in which it has handled the relief situation....Apparently the more remote an observer from this state the more enthusiastic he becomes over our relief system....while the Republican national committee and the New York board of trade are publicizing our “solution” of the relief problem through the simple expedient of hanging it on municipalities, those closer to the scene are growing frantic over the danger that looms....One New York paper revealed the virtues of the present relief system in New Jersey one day and on the next carried the story of the death of a child from starvation in a North Jersey municipality....had the state “muddled through” to a solution of its relief problems it would accept the pats on the back from neighboring states with satisfaction. But even when glossed over with political prejudice the present relief system is far from a panacea and New Jersey hardly a model of relief administration....” (editorial from the Asbury Park Press, published in The Daily Record, Aug. 3, 1936, p.4)

From the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, Aug. 5, 1936, p.4: “The Social Security act will be a year old within a few days, though it was about six months before Congress got around to giving the Social Security Board money with which to operate. The great systems of contributory old age pensions and unemployment insurance called for by the act are still in the offing, but the immediate phases of the program show some progress when comparison is made with previous conditions. Fifteen states have passed unemployment compensation laws in line

with the federal program. These states cover 7,500,000, or about 45 per cent, of the workers who are eligible for coverage by this part of the act. Thirty-six states have presented old age assistance plans which have been approved by the board and are now matching federal appropriations for old age pensions. These states include 72 per cent of the population. Twenty-one states are co-operating and receiving funds for aid of the needy blind and 20 for aid of dependent children. About 800,000 persons are receiving old age pensions of up to \$30 a month—an average of \$18.39 a month. More than 200,000 dependent children are being aided with combined federal and state money, and about 25,000 blind persons—representing 25 per cent of the nation's blind. About \$30,000,000 has gone from the federal treasury to the states for the aged; the states match the federal grant in each case. Five states, located in a geographical bloc, have no old age assistance laws and receive no federal money: Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Seven others have passed such laws, but haven't yet submitted them to Washington officials....”

“**DENVILLE** – The C.C.C. camp here will hold its midsummer dance Friday evening beginning at 8:30. A WPA orchestra will play. Most of the boys already have dates for the affair, so there will be no bus transportation for girls. However, young ladies in the Denville, Rockaway, Dover and Lakeland areas are invited to attend....” (Aug. 5, 1936, p.6)

“**DENVILLE** – If you're caught sneezing here in the future, you aren't a hay-fever sufferer. You've got a plain, ordinary cold. Having received last night a complaint that ragweeds in the center of town are making life miserable for hay-fever susceptibles, the Township Committee ordered Road Chairman Dr. W. Moore Gould to have the weeds cut down at once. Dr. Gould will use relief clients on the anti-sniff project.” (Aug. 6, 1936, p.1)

“**MADISON** – The roar of a steam shovel and the joyful shouts of twenty laborers split the peaceful atmosphere of Green Street yesterday when the excavations for the new \$84,000 post office got fully underway. For the laboring men the beginning of the project meant the return of those prosperous times that seemed to disappear with the crash of '29....Nearly a year of steady employment with its full dinner pails and its opportunities to put a little money ahead for troubled days lies ahead for the men who are now shoveling out the deep hold for the foundationThru the Winter the manual laborers will be kept busy, and hordes of skilled tradesmen will be added to the working force to do the painting, the electrical and masonry details, and the dozen other special tasks that must be given the attention of union mechanics” (Aug. 6, 1936, p. 1)

Sign of the times: ““Equal pay with men for equal work” is a feminine-propelled slogan winging its way around the world these days. And it's getting results, too. In Paris, for instance, the International Federation of Business Women has just endorsed the principle. “We don't want to be known as women chemists, women artists, and women teachers,” said one speaker at the Paris conclave. “We are chemists, artists, and teachers, and we have a right to the salaries appropriate to those professions.” Women's participation in business and government has long since settled any question of the equality of the sexes. This new request of equal pay for equal work is wholly justifiable.” (editorial, Aug. 6, 1936)

“**MADISON** – Madison's building industry is racing out of the depression doldrums in constantly larger strides and will reach a definite recovery level by next spring, according to a statement made public today by Percy B. Lum, vice-chairman and spokes[sic] for the Madison Better Housing Committee....As proof of the steady progress being made in the construction field he cited the column of July building permits as compared with those for the same month in

past years....”Last month’s volume of \$28,400 represents a gain of 39 per cent over the total for building permits issued in July 1935, while that month’s figure was a gain of only 12 per cent over the volume for July the preceeding [sic] year.”....” (Aug. 7, 1936, p.2)

“**PEQUANNOCK** – Because the Township’s borrowing capacity is so limited under state laws, the WPA will not approve a grant for construction of a junior high school for Pequannock and the plan will have to be abandoned, it was indicated at a special meeting of the Board of Education. The Board has asked for a PWA grant and loan and the total cost of a building for a junior high school was placed at \$190,000. The PWA would grant 45 percent of this and about \$114,000 would have to be raised by a bond issue. The borrowing capacity is limited to \$65,000, according to the state laws which sets [sic] the amount as six percent of the total assessed valuation. Because of this the Board was told the PWA would recommend rejection of the application.” (Aug. 7, 1936, p.14)

“**POMPTON PLAINS** – The Pequannock Township relief committee decided to apply for state aid to help in administering relief for the rest of the year. There are now ten families on relief comprising 35 persons. The relief cost has been cut to \$235 from the \$500 it averaged under the ERA but under the ERA the township’s share was only \$132 monthly and now it has to pay the full amount.” (Aug. 7, 1936, p.14)

“The WPA project of recreating Speedwell Lake will be started on Monday when 30 men will go to work, Alderman Edward F. Broderick announced at the Board of Aldermen meeting.... Eventually about 60 men will be employed....The relief report for July showed 155 families of 589 persons getting relief and Town Clerk Nelson S. Butera pointed out that the relief load was increased and was greater than anticipated. There were 54 new cases, 12 discontinued and three rejected. The total cost was \$2,722, of which \$1,022.99 went for food. The Board requested state aid in continuing to finance relief in a resolution which stated the Town was unable to meet all costs because of the falling off of income and asked the state director for continuous month to month aid in the local program from July to December. Another resolution asked that the Town be given its share of ERA funds, in which there was still a balance....” (Aug. 8, 1936, p.1)

‘**MADISON** – Reductions from the salaries of teachers and borough employees have more than carried Madison’s relief burden for four years,, prompting the employees to seek the removal of the pay cuts, a survey made public today indicated. The employees are expected to ask the borough council to eliminate the salary reductions at tonight’s meeting, following up their action in presenting the council with a petition urging the abolition of the cuts last January....The employees belief [sic] they have a strong talking point in the fact the board of education voted to stop salary deductions from teachers’ pay envelopes last January. The board went further in fact, when it granted nineteen pay increases, ranging from \$100 to \$300 for next year. Many of the employees feel they are being unjustly penalized in being asked to continue contributing 10 per cent of their salaries to relief, a proportion not approached by any other citizen in the borough. They claim living costs in Madison have risen 37 per cent in the last year and that they cannot maintain a decent standard of living on their depreciated incomes. Neighboring municipalities are paying higher salaries than Madison, and Chatham and Florham Park never adopted pay cuts in any form. The survey indicates that the savings through the salary deductions have relieved taxpayers entirely of relief costs since August, 1932. In four years the borough has spent \$48,500 for relief. The state paid \$22,900, and the deductions from borough employees stipends amounted to \$22,500 in the same period. This figure, plus the money derived from teachers’ pay cuts more than carried the borough’s entire relief load.” (Aug. 10, 1936, p. 1)

“Mayor W. Parsons Todd heaved the first shovel-load of dirt here yesterday on the WPA construction of the Whippany River dam in Jersey’s historic Speedwell Park. The dam will form a 25-acre lake in the heart of the park, and send waters rising to the edge of the site of the Speedwell Iron Works in which was built the machinery for the steamship “Savannah”, first steam propelled vessel to cross the Atlantic....Two gate houses eight feet high will be erected on opposite ends of the dam and will house control machinery for the flood gates. The lake will be ten feet deep at the dam and shelve off to a depth of three feet. It will be approximately 1,000 feet long and 900 feet wide....WPA workmen will remove remains of the former stone dam. The river channel will be excavated and widened, and park land adjacent to the dam graded and dressed with top soil. A dirt road surrounding the lake will be cleared and graded. The lake will provide a winter and summer recreation spot for Morristown residents. The project is scheduled to be completed in eight months, during which time an average of 50 men will be employed. Federal funds are \$24,949.50; the sponsor’s, the Board of Aldermen, \$6,515.39....” (Aug. 11, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Construction of the new Boonton postoffice building will provide an average of thirty-six man years of work, according to employment experts of the Treasury Department’s procurement division....About 180 men will be indirectly employed in production of materials used for construction of the Boonton postoffice. The men employed on the Boonton project will be selected locally. The contractor will be advised to first contact union organizations of Boonton in his effort to obtain workers. If the unions do not respond within forty-eight hours, the contractors may call upon the United States Re-employment Office of Morris County. If the necessary skilled workers cannot be obtained from either of these sources, the contractor will be privileged to get workers in any way he can. It is estimated that two-thirds of the contract price of construction will go directly to labor employed on the site.” (Aug. 12, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Employment of relief workers as guides at the Morristown National Historical Park during the remainder of the season is to be undertaken by the National Park Service in cooperation with the National Youth Administration, it was learned today....The guides will be drawn from local relief rolls and will be paid the prevailing local wage for that type of work, it was said. In the past the guide work at Morristown has been handled by the regular staff of the park service and by workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Under the new plan the relief workers will replace some of the CCC boys, who will be freed for other types of undertaking. The new guides are being hired as a result on [sic] the increase in attendance at Morristown and other national parks, officials said....” (Aug. 12, 1936, p.1)

“The Morris County Board of Freeholders appropriated \$12,500 for the use of the Morris County Welfare Board during August....In an elaborate report the Welfare Board informed the freeholders that the number of “permanent relief” cases dropped from 266 to 228 during May, June and July. Several persons were transferred to the old age assistance branch of relief. After several more transfers, the board estimates that it will have 208 cases to care for at a cost of about \$3,800....” (Aug. 13, 1936, p.1)

“A dozen guides will be hired under the National Youth Administration as tourist escorts in the national park here, according to Elbert Cox, the park superintendent. Cox said NYA employees are allowed only a very few hours of work each week, and he explained he will try to get enough guides to stagger them throughout each week to get full tourist service....More than 12,000 visitors saw the park during July. Cox said last year’s tourist total will be greatly exceeded in 1936.” (Aug. 14, 1936, p.1)

“Municipal relief directors in Morris County spent during July seven per cent more for every case they handled than they did during June. The July cost per case also represents a 24 per cent increase over the cost per case in May, the first month when the relief problem was handled locally rather than by the ERA. The figures are included in July reports to the Morris County Welfare Board....The reason that the cost per case is going up and is beginning to approach the old ERA figures is apparent in reports made by the towns to the board. Whereas during May 96 per cent of all expenditures went for food and milk, local directors reversed their policy in June and July and spent increasing amounts for rent, clothing, hospitalization, medical supplies, and other items....July returns from 17 municipalities in the County show there is no appreciable change in the number of relief cases....Sixteen municipalities failed to report to the welfare board, and five others have never participated either under the ERA or the board itself...”
(Aug. 14, 1936, p.1)

“**DENVILLE** – There is agitation here for the establishment of a WPA sewing room that would employ 30 women. According to the plan of Township Committeeman Charles W. Rodgers, Sr., local relief director, the center would be located on the second floor of the Municipal Building. WPA officials in Morristown have inspected the proposed site and have approved it. The approval of the State Department is being sought. Rodgers suggests that the rent for the floor be paid to the Fire Department by the various municipalities who send women to be employed in sewing. They would pay in proportion to the number employed from each town. The WPA would supply materials and pay the wages. Two weeks ago the Rockaway WPA sewing room on West Main street was discontinued because the building was condemned as unsafe by the labor department.”
(Aug. 14, 1936, p.5)

“**ROCKAWAY** – The Borough Council felt last night the first reverberation of the fact it acted two weeks ago to shut off water supply in homes where bills are delinquent....Unsatisfactory tax collections for 1936 were reflected in the fact the borough voted to ask the State Financial Assistance Commission for monetary relief aid from July through December. More than two-thirds of the original budget appropriation of \$2,000 for emergency relief remains unspent but tax monies have not been coming in as expected....” (Aug. 14, 1936, p.13)

“**TRENTON, (AP)** – Figures compiled by the Financial Assistance Commission indicate a substantial drop in the New Jersey relief costs since the state turned over the burden to the municipalities. Tabulation of information furnished by the first 46 municipalities which sought cash advances revealed steady decreases in the total estimated cost of relief, the number of clients and the average cost per case. The FAC has parcelled out cash advances of \$222,611 in the past three weeks. Some 60 municipalities have shared in the money, although 450 communities are eligible to apply for grants. In a few cases, grants have been delayed because of improper application, but in most instances the state aid has been withheld because of the municipalities’ failure to make application for it....Grants are made on the basis of a formula by which the commission pegs a municipality’s relief share after considering its financial condition. ...The number of persons on municipal lists has been lopped in half during the year. In July, 1935, there were 148,684 persons receiving aid. In April, the number had fallen to 71,582, while last month it was set at 64,701. The number of cases showed a similar reduction. They were 43,358 in July 1, 1935; 23,724 in April, 1936; 15,244 in July, 1936....” (Aug. 17, 1936, p.1)

“**WHARTON** – The improved economic conditions apparent nationally and the help the WPA has given Wharton in reducing the cost of running various Municipal Departments have proved beneficial to Wharton in two ways, the borough council learned last night, better than they have been in many years, and the cost of running many department [sic] has been deeply cut by the

assistance of WPA funds and workers. Tax Collector Dan Fichter submitted a written report showing the improvement in the borough's financial condition that has resulted. His report said: "...all our note indebtedness of every description, has been erased....In addition to all current as well as past debts being paid, a check was recently sent the county treasurer to cover the county and state school taxes to date, as well as the soldiers' bonus and District Court taxes for the full year of 1936,"...." (Aug. 18, 1936, p.1)

“TRENTON, (AP) – Samuel S. Kenworthy, executive secretary, said today that figures compiled by the State League of Municipalities which approximated those of the State Financial Assistance Commission showed a drop in the per capita cost of relief in New Jersey. The reduction...was due largely to local administration of relief. He said he believed this system cut administrative expenses and eliminated many from the relief rolls who were not properly entitled to aid....Kenworthy said the figures showed the average per capita cost under the emergency relief administration was \$26.86 and under local control was \$22.65. Administrative costs were included by some of the municipalities reporting the per capita cost under local officials, he said. The financial assistance commission, which did not consider administrative costs in its survey, took its figures from 46 municipalities including one-fourth of the state's population. The average per capita cost under the ERA was \$26.14 and under local management was \$20.27, the commission reported. Any comparison of total costs or persons on relief meant nothing unless WPA projects were considered. More than 60 per cent of the relief load was carried now by the WPA, he said, while a year ago relief was handled by the ERA alone...." (Aug. 18, 1936, p.1)

“During the past three years, Morris County farmers obtained long-term mortgage loans of \$197,400 through the Federal land bank of Springfield, Mass., according to E. H. Thompson, the bank's president. This amount was represented by some 77 loans granted here between May 1933 and July 1, 1936, most of which were used to pay up and refinance previous debts. Mr. Thomson pointed out, however, that the loans “do not mean more debts, but do represent a shifting of farm obligations from many scattered creditors to the cooperative land bank system to get the benefit of lower interest rates and more favorable repayment terms....” (Aug. 18, 1936, p.1)

“WASHINGTON, (AP) – Experts “guessed” today that it won't be long before the housewife lays out from \$11 to \$12 for the same basket of food she now buys for a ten-dollar bill. Government and private experts...explained that when the scorching sun shriveled crops in recent months the dollar's food purchasing power went into a dive....” (Aug. 18, 1936, p.1)

“TRENTON – Use of \$508,607 of Federal funds granted New Jersey to help lessen unemployment was approved yesterday by State Highway Commissioner E. Donald Sterner. New work that will be started will provide 3,743 man weeks of labor to be supplied by local residents....” (Aug. 19, 1936, p.1)

“No man has been closer to the public pulse in the last 40 years than has William Allen White. So when the Kansas editor took occasion the other day to evaluate events since the 90's, his many observations were highly interesting. One of them stood out above the rest. Said Mr. White, commenting on the smugly bitter criticism the “privileged classes “leveled at Reformer William Jennings Bryan in the 1896 campaign: “And so said we, all of us, who had been trained to believe that God was in an 8 per cent heaven and all was right with a laissez-faire world.!” Here in a few words the “Sage of Emporia” has punctured the notion that a nation's real progress can be measured in dollars and cents. And now that we're recovering from 1929 and beginning to think of that “8 per cent heaven” again, Mr. White's hint of other values is pretty timely.”

(editorial, Aug. 19, 1936, p.4)

“**MOUNTAIN LAKES** -- ...because of the current uncertainty over funds and over the exact day of which the new high school here will be opened in September, no date will be set immediately for the dedication of the \$254,000 PWA educational plant....” (Aug. 19, 1936, p.6)

“**TRENTON**, (AP) – An attempt was made by a Passaic assemblyman today to sound out the sentiment among his fellow legislators for a special session on relief-financing...The Workers’ Alliance of New Jersey, leaders of the unemployed’s encampment in the assembly chamber last spring, joined the demands of various municipalities for a special session....John Spain, Jr., chairman, said the Workers’ Alliance would “demand a definite program of action on relief be presented by both political parties before the legislature meets in order that the special session will produce results.” If a special session doesn’t develop, Spain said the Workers’ Alliance would lead a “hunger march” on the State House. He said demonstrations would be held before relief agencies in the municipalities followed by a town-to-town march on foot and by motor vehicles. Spain said the Alliance would demand cash relief payments of 64 cents a day per person. The distribution he said would be handled by the state....Senate President Frank Durand of Monmouth said yesterday...he saw no reason for a special session until legislators were ready to meet “the problem in a new frame of mind.” ” (Aug. 20, 1936, p.1)

“**BUTLER** – Relief is costing less than \$60 a month here, reducing the burden to a minimum as the winter approaches. Prospects of two large public construction jobs soon lend promise to the prospects that the cost will be reduced further....” (Aug. 20, 1936, p.1)

“Nicholas Parella and the WPA orchestra will assist the playground directors in their wind-up programs the remainder of the month. Next Tuesday the orchestra will be engaged for music and dancing at the Burnham Park Field Day, and on Monday, August 31, it will again be called on at the annual Lidgerwood Field Day and Community Night. The musicians will then conclude their summer programs in town by assisting at the annual closing exercises at Cauldwell Playground where a full days’ program of athletic activities, games, contests, etc., will be given to be followed by a block dance in the evening....” (Aug. 20, 1936, p.3)

“The grand annual scramble for teachers’ jobs is about over for the year, and it appears again that the teachers are going to get the worst of the deal. The salaries that are being paid in thousands of rural school districts from Maine to California barely permit the teachers to subsist. Starting on the average from \$50, most of them seldom get above \$60 or \$70 a month. Furthermore, the teachers are handicapped by poor equipment. Sufficient surveys have now been made in various states to indicate that wholesale consolidation of school districts seems to be the answer to this situation. Perhaps then communities will be able to operate better schools and pay instructors decent wages.” (editorial, Aug. 20, 1936)

“It comes as a bit of a shock, but the last report of the United States Census Bureau reveals there are 4,283,753 Americans more than 10 years old who can neither read nor write. Here is a large segment of our population handicapped at the outset for any competition in a modern world that demands the best education a person can obtain. If the individual cases of these 4,000,000 were analyzed, it might be found that hundreds of thousands are unemployed—unemployed because they never have been equipped to earn an adequate living. These figures, incredible as they seem, offer a real challenge to every community. Adult education programs should be fostered. The government already has done much in this direction, but a great deal more of the task lies ahead. It is a big job, but it justifies any effort. America can’t afford illiteracy at any price.”

(editorial, Aug. 20, 1936)

“The prevailing method by which the State Financial Assistance Commission helps municipalities with their relief finance was scored by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last night at a special meeting. A letter of protest to the commission will be drafted by Counsel Nathaniel C. Toms and Town Clerk Nelson Butera. Morristown became provoked with the prevailing method when it got only \$85 of State aid in July on a total expenditure of \$2,736. The amount of State help given is based on the percentage of 1935 taxes which were collected through the end of July, 1936. Morristown had realized better than 75 percent of its 1935 levy on that date, and was therefore classified by the State as entitled to only a small amount of aid. Butera last night described the method as penalizing those towns which try to collect a high percentage of their 1935 taxes. He said he had “put in more than \$85 worth of work making out the report to get the \$85 for July.” The clerk recalled the set-up at this time last year, when the town was paying only about \$1,600 for its emergency relief and when the remainder, sometimes amounting to almost \$10,000, was borne by the State....Mayor W. Parsons Todd and the Board agreed the commission should apportion State aid as a percentage of the actual amount spent in any one month for relief. The protest letter will embody that point of view....” (Aug. 21, 1936, p.1)

“**NEWARK** (AP) – Governor Hoffman, who said the New Jersey relief situation was “near chaos”, had before him today a united demand from 12 municipalities that the legislature reconvene immediately and take “drastic steps to lift the burden from communities”....The governor remained firm in his stand that a sales tax was the best method of financing relief....” (Aug. 21, 1936, p.1)

“Charles Edison, State Director for the National Emergency Council for New Jersey has received a report showing the assistance received during the year ending June 27, by Morris County farmers under the provisions of the Rural Rehabilitation Division of the Resettlement Administration. 29 residents on farms in this county received loans aggregating \$17,121.28 for the purpose of purchasing farm equipment, livestock, repairs, feed and seed. In addition 17 farmers received grants for immediate subsistence needs to the amount of \$1,230.60. In the State 566 of these loans and 222 grants had reached a sum of \$448,154.78 when reported to Mr. Edison. The farm debt adjustment phase of this program has provisions through which farmers and their creditors may be brought into agreement in adjusting their financial obligations. As a result of negotiations for adjustment of debts in forty four cases in New Jersey, \$5,198 was received in taxes by the several townships where the adjustments were made....” (Aug. 21, 1936, p.3)

“**BOONTON** – The Community Relief bureau, in a periodic report, announced a system of work relief introduced in cooperation with Relief Director Samuel Harris yesterday. Relief clients are given credit on the town’s books against relief given or to be given. Those on the town relief were placed under work projects in connection with the bureau. The report said, “The majority of employables responded favorably” and “the few who didn’t work” were dropped off relief”. Among the projects occupying the attention to the workers were fixing cable and posts and iron fences; clearing of weeds from highways and parks in the town and cutting of wood for winter fuel. The report described the work of [sic] bureau as being for those who are needy but still not regularly registered relief cases. It indicated that the uncertain relief situation in the state may put an added burden on the bureau. The bureau was organized about four years ago under the leadership of Rev. Reece Hill, former pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, to coordinate all agencies which contribute aid to the needy.” (Aug. 21, 1936, p.9)

“**DOVER** – The last boxing bouts of the season sponsored by the CCC Camps of Northern New

Jersey will climax the boxing activities at the Berkshire Arena on Tuesday night when eight fast bouts will bring together the outstanding fighters of the year....during the course of the summer months the CCC Camps assisted greatly in bringing...amateur boxing back into its own in the state. Every card presented to the public has proven to be an overwhelming success.... Negotiations have just been completed to have Arthur Donovan, world famous referee and boxing instructor for the New York Athletic club, referee the bouts. Donovan recently refereed the Sharkey-Louis bout at the Yankee Stadium. A few of the boxing contestants from the United States Olympic team, who recently participated in the bouts in Germany, will give exhibition bouts providing that the Olympic team will not be engaged in New York on the night of the CCC bouts....” (Aug. 21, 1936, p.11)

from the **Daily Washington Letter** by Rodney Dutcher, August 22, 1936, p.4: “Wide circulation of the story that there’s a labor shortage and that private employers can’t get workers because citizens who otherwise would be available prefer to remain on WPA rolls is giving the New Deal propagandists more concern than any other phase of the Republican attack on administration relief policies. Vigorous attempts to knock down that story, which has popped up in nearly every section of the country, have been unsuccessful. WPA officials expect it will be resounding in their ears with increasing force as the campaign goes on. The records available in Washington—though of course the experience of the individual reader may conflict with this—indicate that complaints as to inability to get workers off WPA rolls have come almost entirely from those who sought labor at low wages, long hours, or both. The significant thing about the whole story, which neither side stresses, is that the United States government is standing firmly behind men and women who refuse to leave WPA rolls to accept wages which WPA officials consider less than “fair.” Thus, in a sense, the New Deal is setting minimum wage standards for private industries. WPA surveys have shown that only three out of every hundred relief workers charged with refusing private jobs had refused “unjustifiably,” and the chief reason for the “justifiable” refusals was low wages. The average WPA wage is 47 cents an hour, which means \$52.50 a month, the average hours per worker being 112. In Clackamas county, Ore., officials laid off 200 workers to force them to take berry-picking or lumbering jobs. The Civic Council of the county protested...that the berry-pickers received an average of only 50 cents a day and that wood-cutters being paid \$2 a cord could cut but two-thirds of a cord a day. ...After an investigation, the 200 workers were replaced on the rolls. Considerable publicity has been given charges by a lumber operator near Malone, N. Y., who asked for permission to bring in 250 Canadians to peel pulpwood for him for three months. This man said he couldn’t get WPA workers. WPA insists it investigates all such complaints. The Rev. Father Francis J. Haas of its labor relations section went to Malone to get the facts. Father Haas reported that he found 18 non-relief lumbermen had gone to this man’s camp. Some had returned the first day and all had quit within five days. He says he also found: No limitation on hours, but working days of 12 to 14 hours plus an hour going to the job and another hour returning. Piecework rates which gave workers from \$1 to \$1.50 a day after deductions. Requirements by the employer of at least a year’s experience. “At fair wages and hours, there’s no labor shortage there,” reports Father Haas.”

“The Newark Ledger’s fervence for the relief clients of New Jersey led that newspaper last week into what might have been termed an offside play. In its alertness to discover relief cases where clients are starving under local administration, the Ledger sent Kenneth L. Eagon to Morristown to investigate the much printed case of Andrew Babyak. **Andrew, according to Eagon’s first story, was a helpless, bedridden paralytic without a friend in all the wide and cruel world. Not only that, but three governing units, the Ledger said, had shrugged their shoulders and passed the buck of responsibility for Babyak. They were the township of Milltown, the**

Borough of Mountain Lakes, and the Morris County Welfare Board. “Three separate relief organizations have unequivocally and emphatically declared they will not assist Babyak in any way until jurisdiction is proved in his case,” Eagon wrote. But even before Eagon’s story was printed, the Morris County Welfare Board had voted to finance Babyak until County Judge Albert H. Holland decides in September who is responsible for him. The next day following Eagon’s account, another story appeared and it sustained the action of the board in every respect. Now the Ledger has been a lone voice crying in the wilderness and pointing out something valuable to the people of New Jersey—namely, that economy in relief costs may mean in some cases that starvation impends. On the whole, there is far too much being said on the side of the relief directors. Therefore, it is lamentable that when the Ledger sets about to disseminate truth on the other side of the question, it goes too much the whole hog and departs in some measure from the facts.” (Aug. 22, 1936, p.4, author F.A.C.)

“**CHATHAM** – A new weekly record in dollar volume of FHA applications sent to financial institutions was set by the Chatham Better Housing Committee during the past week...according to a report...the new high total amounted to \$14,440, a gain of \$5,940 over the previous high set during the last week in July....”The amount of money asked for refinancing during the past week was \$11,500, as compared to the sum of \$2,940 requested for modernization....” (Aug. 22, 1936, p.10)

“**MT. HOLLY, (AP)** – The strike of between 500 and 700 WPA employees for higher pay bogged down today into an impasse between the Workers’ Alliance of New Jersey, sponsor of the strike, and State Works Progress Administration headquarters. A similar walkout in the PWA was threatened by workers....An official at State WPA headquarters in Newark...said no effort would be made to induce the strikers to return....John Spain, Jr. State Chairman of the Workers’ Alliance...said the Burlington workers struck to enforce their demand for the same pay as WPA employees got in adjacent Mercer County. The Burlington scale provided for 134 hours a month at 45 cents, or \$60.30 a month relief pay, while the Mercer scale called for 121 hours at 50 cents, or \$60.50. The rates were based on reports of prevailing wages in the respective counties.” (Aug. 25, 1936, p.1)

“**NEWARK, (AP)** – Viewing the prospect of additional real estate taxes “with consternation,” the State League of Municipalities laid before Governor Harold G. Hoffman today a demand to call a special legislative session to formulate a long-range relief financing Program. The resolution, drawn by the executive and advisory board of the league last night, urged the legislature to recognize relief as a permanent problem and to revise the “State’s antiquated taking [sic] system.” A frequent critic of governor Hoffman during the last legislative session, Assemblyman Homer Zink of Essex County, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, told the Board he agreed with the governor that the state tax base should be broadened. Hoffman has urged return of the sales tax as the best method of financing relief. “I refuse to discuss the so-called relief crisis,” Zink said. “I call it a tax crisis. You’ll be unjust if you permit stop gap measures for financing relief. “It may sound funny coming from me, but Governor Hoffman was sound originally in his plea for new tax bases and he is still sound.”...Relief directors, finance officials, mayors and councilmen from municipalities all over the state cited their relief problems and expressed fear of tax strikes and impaired credit standings if real estate taxes were raised.... “The problem of relief is no longer an emergency problem but one as permanent as education, care of the insane and other similar problems.” ” (Aug. 25, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** – Five projects to be paid for by the Federal government were advertised today by State Highway Commissioner E. Donald Sterner....The funds were allotted New Jersey to help

in reducing unemployment and will provide about 4,800 man weeks of employment. Employed workers will be obtained from local communities through State Employment Service lists at the minimum rate of \$1.20 per hour for skilled labor; 65 cents for intermediate grade and 50 cents for unskilled....” (Aug. 25, 1936, p.2)

Sign of the times: “Development of a new revolver with more than twice the striking power of the standard weapon presents a pressing problem. For many years efforts have been made to restrict sales of revolvers and pistols, which may be obtained even by mail in some cases. This new gun, firing a .375 calibre bullet, will drill through an engine-block or strike with a terrific force of more than 800 pounds. It is a weapon far more terrible than those against which previous efforts at control have been aimed. Such a weapon in the hands of either police or criminals might kill twice as many innocent bystanders as the present ones in the course of those running street battles which are all too common. Manufacture and sale of so deadly a weapon can scarcely be considered a matter of purely private concern. It calls for regulation of the most stringent sort.” (editorial, Aug. 26, 1936)

“Morristown and vicinity does not seem to be particularly suffering from the depression according to information given out at the National Park Service in Washington following a conference of Superintendent Elbert Cox, of the Morristown National Historical Park, with Park Service officials. It was announced that plans of the National Park Service for the employment of local youth as guides in the local park have been dropped as a result of a lack of young people on relief rolls while extension of the park into Somerset County is being held up by lack of relief labor.... While the developments of Morristown park with Civilian Conservation Corps labor has been approved only until the end of the present period of emergency conservation work, September 30, there is little doubt of the approval of the camp for a longer period, Cox indicated....” (Aug. 27, 1936, p.7)

“**TRENTON** (AP) – The State League of Municipalities named a committee today to confer with the State Financial Assistance Commission to urge that body to reconsider the figures upon which its present formula for relief distribution was based. The committee included township manager Paul A. Volcker of Teaneck, Treasurer Leslie Rogers of Pennsauken Township, city Comptroller A. J. Farrell of Paterson and Samuel S. Kenworthy, executive secretary of the league.... Mayor John V. Hinchliffe of Paterson, president of the League of Municipalities, said....” Many communities which heretofore have had state assistance are receiving nothing today. This is apparently due to the fact that the commission has considered \$6,000,000 as the only funds available for distribution. If the \$1,500,000 free balance in the remaining funds of the former state emergency relief administration can be made available and if the commission has overestimated its requirements in the sum of \$2,000,000 as stated in the Kenworthy report, it should result in additional funds to those communities now receiving small reimbursements from the state and at least some return to those communities which have been excluded.”... State Relief Director Arthur Mudd said while he hoped his \$10,500,000 estimate would be lowered he believed Kenworthy’s estimate was wrong because he had failed to allow for a rise in the case cost during the winter with higher prices for fuel, food and clothing....” (Aug. 27, 1936, p. 1&7)

“**MT. HOLLY** (AP) – Four hundred striking Burlington County WPA employees faced an ultimatum from WPA headquarters today that if they did not return to work soon they would be dropped from the rolls and replaced by other men.... the men... struck to enforce their demand for 50 cents an hour for a 121-hour month instead of the present wage of 45 cents an hour for 134 hours. The Workers’ Alliance of New Jersey called the strike.... of the 29 projects ten were stopped, three hampered, and 16 in full operations. The strikers’ ranks were swelled yesterday

when 50 workers on a road oiling project at Palmyra joined them after making good on a promise to complete the job before striking.” (Aug. 27, 1936, p.1)

“**CAMP HOFFMAN**, Sea Girt – Governor Harold G. Hoffman dealt roughly with some of the critics of New Jersey relief today in a letter to J. David Stern, newspaper publisher. The Governor took issue with statements made in an editorial which appeared in the Camden Courier-Post, charging the governor with responsibility for the alleged “starvation deaths” of two New Jersey children. After citing evidence that the children died from malnutrition and disease rather than from lack of food, the Governor charged that the responsibility for New Jersey relief conditions rested upon the newspapers which had opposed legislation to reform the State’s taxing system and provide funds for relief needs. The Governor...said, in part...”You make of these children’s bodies a political issue. You wipe their blood off the editorial knife that killed them, don theatrical sackcloth and ashes and quote editorially from your personally revised edition of the Scriptures, “Thank God that the Camden Courier-Post is not as Governor Hoffman – a Republican and a sinner.” ” Governor Hoffman also pointed out that the thirty million dollars exacted from New Jersey consumers in New Deal processing taxes would more than meet the costs of relief in the State. The Governor warned that there might be other deaths among the children of New Jersey and said, “They will be buried in winding-sheets of sanctimonious editorial pages—these poor children who could not live on ink.” ” (Aug. 27, 1936, p.3)

From the **Daily Washington Letter**, by Rodney Dutcher, Aug. 27, 1936, p.4: “This business of appealing to Washington when you are in trouble is doubtless very bad, calculated to sap the moral fiber and bankrupt the government. Even if that’s so, it doesn’t make the letters received here from drouth victims any less pathetic or revealing. Here are a few excerpts: A South Dakota school teacher: “The heat outside is 116. The thermometer on this table where I write registers 110. There is no hot wind today. As I look out of these windows, I see nothing but an unending expanse of baking, dusty earth and parched, ruined crops. For me, this week, it might not be so bad, aside from our money loss, if our 11 cows and heifers did not moo so, sometimes an hour at a time, for water. Each day they grow weaker and thinner. The tongues of the oldest have begun to swell. Their eyes are bloodshot. Both our wells have been dry for almost three weeks. The bran we have won’t last long. I have much pride in our cows. Did you ever own gentle, blooded cattle? The nearest spring is several miles down the road. Fourteen families use it. Each owns stock. We are rationing its water. The flow decreases daily. There’s a water hole about 10 miles away. I heard yesterday 25 families were using it. If the WPA men could only deepen and enlarge it. Won’t you see what can be done about the water hole? I shall close. My cows are mooing again.” An “old homesteader” in Montana: “This country is slowly turning into a desert. Each year the cactus growth increases. Its growth has been remarkable since 1934. Cactus follows every drouth. The severer the drouth the finer the cactus. I haven’t raised a forkful of cattle feed in three years. I have not had a crop in eight years. And, once, this was the greatest grazing land of the Northwest.” A farm mother in North Dakota: “The poor here is living on braid. It’s just braid we poor is getting from town relief folks. There is plenty of babys among us poor here at ___ and ___. How can any weened one grow up on braid? Some of us poor has cows. Milk is good for weened ones. But dust and dirt in pasturs don’t make no milk. Our men is hoping for road work. They been promised. But it’s bad waiting.””

“**PARSIPPANY** --The public hearing of an ordinance to improve Park Road which is about 1.7 miles long, running from Morristown-Denville Road to Littleton road, was held and passed on final reading. The entire cost, when completed, will be \$40,800.00 of which 90% is furnished by the state, the county and the township sharing the other 10%. An appropriation of \$10,000 has been received from the State Highway Commission this year and with the additional \$1,000

from the County and Township a portion of the road will be improved and work started within a short time....On receipt of a communication from WPA that the Township has been approved as a public relief agency on the works progress program, Committeeman Edward Todd was appointed the official representative of the Township....” (Aug. 28, 1936, p.1)

“CCC Company No. 241’s baseball team emerged victorious in the semi-final series for the North Jersey CCC baseball title when it defeated the Hackettstown Camp team by the score of 5-1 in the final of a three game series played before a crowd estimated at 400 people including the entire Companies of both camps and the people of Netcong....” (Aug. 28, 1936, p.12)

“**BOONTON** – Five hundred hosiery workers unanimously voted here today to object to the submission of a proposition cutting their salaries to an arbitration board. Meeting as Branch 13 of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers the local workers resented the proposed cuts in their salaries September 1. A national agreement between the AFHW and the National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers expires August 31. The manufacturers want a general reduction in wages of all employees from the executives down to the laborers. The workers absolutely refused to accept the cuts. Raymond Cook, secretary of the local branch said, “The union believes the wage cuts demanded by the manufacturers too drastic.” ”(Aug. 29, 1936, p.2)

“**MADISON** – There’s more building in Madison now than there has been in the last three years combined, according to Percy B. Lum, vice-chairman and spokesman for the Madison Better Housing Committee....August figures of the Better Housing Bureau reveal a heavy upturn in applications for FHA financing, both in modernization of homes and in refinancing, and these, declared Mr. Lum, are but one indication of the “come back” in Madison building....Mr. Lum... asserted that “even these figures do not represent the good the FHA is doing in promoting better housing.” “Through the work of the FHA and the Better Housing Committees in their educational program of showing property owners what better housing is, many people have gone ahead and modernized their homes, even without FHA financial help. When we’re talking about the amount of home improvement stirred up in Madison, we can double the bureau’s figure.” ” (Aug. 29, 1936, p.10)

“**WASHINGTON**, (AP) – New Jersey was listed today as eligible for 80 percent of the benefits provided in the Federal Social Security Act. Chief among the benefits for which the state had not qualified was the unemployment compensation plan, which would require enactment of a state unemployment compensation act by the legislature to conform to the federal law. John G. Winant, chairman of the Social Security Board, reported that at the end of one year of operation of the Security Act New Jersey had received \$1,091,666 from the federal government in aid to the needy aged. He said benefits to dependent children had amounted to \$823,428. New Jersey, he said, had qualified for the following other benefits: Maternal and Child Health Services, Services for Crippled Children, Child Welfare, Vocational Rehabilitation, Public Health Service, and Federal Old Age Benefits which begin in 1937.” (Aug. 31, 1936, p.1)

“**BOONTON** – Relief Director Samuel Harris outlined a new system which will become effective here in co-operation with the community relief bureau. The new plan is based on cash relief with work on projects for future and past orders at the town offices credited. A ledger account is kept by Director Harris at the office. This apparently relieves the recipient of any “charity” stigma....In the majority of cases favorable response was evidenced...and the few who did not work were dropped off relief. The activities of the bureau included maintenance of parks, highways, the tennis courts and the parking space. These were kept free of weeds. The bureau declared it would continue its woodcutting projects asserting itself to be the only real

source of winter fuel in the past. The bureau was founded four years ago by Rev. Reece R. Hill, former pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, to supplement government relief and to co-ordinate other relief agencies.” (Aug. 31, 1936, p.1)

“**DOVER** – Improved business conditions with a demand for raw materials saw the first steps of the reopening of the Richard Mine, owned by the Thomas Iron Company, of Reading, Pa., here this morning when a small gang of men started overhauling the plant and machinery. The plant, under the supervision of Superintendent Wilbur B. Searing has been kept in repair since it closed on June 26, 1931. The pumps have been operated since that time ridding the mine of water. The overhauling of the machinery and the concentrating mill and other repairs is estimated to take nearly two months and after that period the mine and mill will be in full operation, giving employment to over 100 former employees....” (Aug. 31, 1936, p.7)

“Somebody is working overtime in an effort to discredit municipal relief in New Jersey. Some of this is for political effect to boost the New Deal with the unthinking during this presidential campaign; some of it is no doubt fostered by those who held snap jobs under Federal and State administrations and want them back, and some of it is fostered by those who fed at the fresh pots under the ERA and when relief passed under municipal control were told to go to work....An attempt was made to give a blackeye to municipal relief owing to the death from malnutrition of an infant near Mount Holly and an 11-year-old boy of Williamstown....An investigation made by the State Financial Assistance Commission disclosed the fact that the infant did die from malnutrition caused by failure to assimilate its food due to a kidney disorder...and the mother admitted she had not followed the doctor’s advice in caring for the child. The father in this...had been a WPA worker at \$44 a month up to April of this year, when he was laid off for non-appearance on the job. He is a caretaker for a sand company and has the use of a house and some land free, and sine June 30 has received \$32 in relief orders. The man does odd jobs and the investigators found on the place 210 chickens, thirty-two ducks and some pigeons. This does not look much like starvation. In the case of the Williamstown boy, he died in Cooper Hospital, Camden, where he was taken in the Monroe Township ambulance in June, from Bright’s disease and a leaky heart, for which he had been treated since November, 1933....” (editorial from the Bridgeton Evening News, published in the Daily Record Sept. 1, 1936, p.4)

“A delegation from the Morris County League of Women Voters attended a conference with the Morris County Board of Freeholders at the Court House yesterday afternoon at which time the League delegates asked the Freeholders to make a survey of Morris County to ascertain whether or not a vocational school is needed here. Following a discussion, the Freeholders were unanimous in their decision to sponsor the survey as a WPA project with the distinct understanding that the making of the survey does not commit them to establishment of such a school. If the WPA funds should fail, the Board will be under no obligation to continue the survey....” (Sept. 2, 1936, p.1)

“**BOONTON** – The Board of Education last night empowered the building and grounds committee to investigate the possibility of obtaining WPA aid for the renovation of Harrison School....The cost may reach \$60,000, about 50 per cent of which will be the WPA share. A referendum will be necessary on the town’s share of the cost....” (Sept. 2, 1936, p.1)

“**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Restoration of two new historic structures in Morristown National Historical Park requires only approval of Washington officials of the National Park Service, it was learned today. Projects for the reconstruction of Fort Nonsense, and of an officers’ barracks hut, the first building of the so-called Pennsylvania Line to be restored, have been submitted to

Washington and are now awaiting final approval. There is little doubt that the Park Service will place its O.K. on the proposal, it was said. Both of the restoration jobs will be undertaken with labor of the Civilian Conservation Corps, as part of the emergency conservation program for the park. Completion of the two structures would require the continuation of the CCC camp beyond September 30, the date its approval expires, but continuation of the camp requires further approval merely as a formality....” (Sept. 4, 1936, p.1)

“The Morris County Junior College students will be able to receive National Youth Administration employment this year, Dr. Robert H. Morrison, State Supervisor of the Junior Colleges, assured Dean Arthur Platt today. An announcement from Washington indicated that Morris County may be the only junior college in the state able to open this Fall. Discontinuance of WPA support may force the other five institutions to close their doors. It was in anticipation of some such Federal economies that the new plan at the Junior College has been put into effect. The Board of Trustees realized early last year that it would be imperative to work out some plan whereby a faculty could be employed, courses of study prepared, and prospective students given definite assurance of the continuance of the college....the Board devised a plan to charge a nominal tuition and to aid indigent students with the help of the National Youth Administration” (Sept. 4, 1936, p.1)

advertisement from The New York Sun on Sept. 4, 1936, p.3 --

“**EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW:**

Who are the unemployed?

Where are the unemployed?

Four months ago The Sun began an employment survey of trade, the manufacturing and mechanical industries, transportation and communications services and mining in the United States.

Now rapidly nearing completion, The Sun’s employment survey will have counted more than 10,000,000 of the workers in industry and trade. Over 90% of the country’s leading concerns will have been checked, as well as thousands of smaller companies. The survey, complete and detailed, will be published in The Sun on Saturday, September 5....The Sun’s “Employment Survey” issue will contain numerous articles, pictures and charts in addition to the employment tabulations—with the facts presented in simple language so that all can understand....”

“The relief funds in Morristown are growing very low, with the entire burden placed on the Town, and will scarcely last more than another month unless greater state aid is given, it was indicated at the Board of Aldermen meeting last night. At Trenton, changes were announced by the State Financial Assistance Commission, following a meeting with the State League of Municipalities, that will allow greater help being given to municipalities and this may help Morristown. A relief finance crisis in Morristown appeared imminent last night when the Mayor and Board of Aldermen learned they have a total 1936 appropriation of \$20,316, only \$4,484 left with which to support the unemployed for the balance of the year. If relief funds were to be used at the same monthly rate they have been so far this year, they would be drained completely about the end of the first week in November. Town Clerk Nelson Butera...predicted the money might last until the middle of October, but he told the Mayor and Board he hopes to make some arrangement whereby no emergency appropriation will be necessary....Alderman Harold Watson, the finance chairman, painted a very gloomy picture of the situation in 1937 if the State fails to provide new aid....Butera declared the “emergency relief program is not in the nature of an emergency any longer, but is rather something permanent.”....The August relief load was 183

cases representing 641 persons, or an increase of 28 over July in the case total. The cost per case increased from \$16.30 in July to \$17.42 in August. Butera reported a continual rise in the case load since May and a total August expenditure of \$3,187.50, compared with July's \$2,722 and June's \$2,530...." (Sept. 5, 1936, p.1)

"TRENTON – New Jersey, with its relief figures revised and its municipalities temporarily satisfied, moved today to standardize relief requirements throughout the state. Reduction of the State's six-month relief estimate from \$10,500,000 to \$9,750,000 and an increase of its disbursement fund from \$6,000,000 to \$7,500,000 was seen as paving the way for higher relief standards....Revision of the estimate and addition of \$1,400,000 free balance of the defunct ERA to the State's fund were voted yesterday by the financial assistance commission at a conference with a committee of the State League of Municipalities. The commission, anticipating the Legislature would approve transfer of the ERA funds when it meets in January, voted to make aid allotments on the basis of a \$7,500,000 fund....Samuel S. Kenworthy, the league's executive secretary said his group would continue its demands for a special session after the November election to enact a permanent relief-financing program...." (Sept. 5, 1936, p.2)

"The greatest gain made by American labor during the trying days that have passed since the Great Collapse in 1929 does not appear on any statute book. It is written in no court proceeding, recorded in no chronicle of the picket lines. It is this: for the first time in the history of the country, practically everyone, workman, employer, professional or business man, recognizes that the keystone of prosperity and the welfare of all of us is the purchasing power of the men and women who work. A few economists always knew it. But there were always some in influential places to deny it, and the great majority of people were indifferent to it. Now, it has been borne in on us again and again, by the most careful studies of economists of the Brookings Institution type, and by the daily observation of every man who studies his own and his neighbors' lives. Without wages that will put strong purchasing power into the hands of those who work, there can be no prosperity, no security for anyone. The American market remains the greatest in the world. And that is because the buying power of the American workman has always been high in comparison with that of workmen abroad....Merchants know it. They have seen their sales leap as employment grew and wages rose. Professional people know it. They have seen medical, dental, and legal bills paid, after having been dormant for years. Business men of all kinds know it, for they have seen the pulse of business beat down through retail trade into light, and then to heavy, manufacturing. Working people themselves know it, as they have watched their pay envelopes translated into more and better things to broaden their own lives...." (editorial, Sept. 5, 1936)

"NEWARK, (AP) – Unemployment insurance, old age benefit and taxing provisions of the Federal Social Security Program were under attack today by the New Jersey Social Security Commission as unconstitutional invasion of the State's rights. The commission has asked the legislature to finance a fight in the United States Supreme Court against enforcement of these three phases of the federal program and has prepared a state measure betting [sic?] up a combination unemployment compensation and old age benefit program. Highspots in the unemployment insurance-old age pension plan advanced by the New Jersey Social Security Commission include: The worker gets unemployment insurance if he needs it, life insurance in case of death, annuity in case of long life. No one else can get a cent of what he and his employer contribute to his individual policy, but he can draw no more than that himself. Employer and employe each contribute half. Payments are not less than \$1 a week nor more than \$5. The scale: For persons earning more than \$22 a week, \$1.50. More than \$32, premium of \$2. More than \$40, premium of \$2.50. More than \$45, premium of \$3. More than \$50,

premium of \$3.50. More than \$55, premium of \$4. More than \$60, premium of \$4.50. More than \$65, premium of \$5. All policies are to be written with an endowment maturity clause. Ages at which they will mature are, for workers writing policy between 15 and 39 years of age, at 60; between 40 and 49, at 65; between 50 and 61, at 71; over 61, ineligible. Policies can be converted to paid-up insurance after the first year; can be borrowed against, cannot be attached. All borrowing applications to be referred to Department of Labor, which will order loans stopped if it can find a job for the insured. Premiums will be determined by the pay average for the past year. The maximum rate of weekly benefit will be 7 ½ times the weekly premium, or approximately the worker's regular salary. Weekly benefits will start after four weeks of unemployment. Exceptions are employees of: Governments and governmental agencies. Persons with diplomatic immunity. Employees of churches and religious organizations, though their schools and charitable activities must subscribe. Insurance may be transferred from job to job. The state may attach the funds to meet the support of any indigent person for whom the worker is legally responsible. Private companies may write the insurance, under close regulation of a deputy commissioner of the department of banking insurance. A special bureau will be set up. Insurance is voluntary as long as the federal unemployment compensation program is in effect." (Sept. 11, 1936, p.1)

“DENVILLE – Notice that the Denville C. C. C. football team is seeking contests with other elevens in Northern New Jersey was broadcast today by Coach Andrew Rougvie....The Denville gridiron is to be Imperial Field on the road from here to Mt. Tabor....” (Sept. 11, 1936, p.13)

The Herblock editorial cartoon of September 12, 1936, p.4 is titled “Still on the Outside”. It depicts a man in a baggy suit and a hat leaning on a fence, looking over at factories going full blast, their chimneys emitting smoke. By the man's feet is a paper with one word – UNEMPLOYED. Underneath the factories is the legend, BUSINESS BOOM.

“Walter B. Davis, county superintendent of schools, announced yesterday that application has been made for WPA funds to conduct a survey of the need for a vocational School in Morris County....A committee representing county employers, labor unions and citizens would be appointed, Davis indicated, if the federal funds were allotted....” (Sept. 18, 1936, p.1)

“The Civilian Conservation Corps, drawn up to rehabilitate our great forest resources, seems to have been doing a pretty fair job of human rehabilitation as well. Howard W. Oxley, director of CCC camp educational activities, reports to the War Department that 40,000 young men who were illiterate when they enrolled in the CCC now can read and write. During the past year, for instance, 92 per cent of the men who were found to be illiterate at the beginning of the year have been attending classes regularly. Here is an activity which is every bit as important as the forest conservation work, if not more so. The prime qualification for citizenship in a democracy is that a man be at least literate. The CCC, by bringing educational opportunities to men who had been denied them, is amply justifying its existence. And it should be possible to say this without thought of the current political campaign. The CCC is not a partisan issue. It is a national program that has worked.” (editorial, Sept. 18, 1936)

“Unless all the signs in the sky are even more cock-eyed than usual, we may be entering a new period of prosperity. All the indices say so, and the feel of it is in the air. A year from now, don't be surprised if we are looking forward to a brand-new boom....we might very well take a few minutes off to ask ourselves what sort of prosperity it is going to be. For there is prosperity and prosperity. There is the kind that puts an end to involuntary unemployment, takes the shadow of fear from the mind of the ordinary citizen, and brings good business for the little

fellow as well as the big; there is also the kind that runs up fine production records but leaves 5,000,000 men out of work and torments the worker, white-collar man, and small business man by driving up prices just a little faster than incomes. It is the second kind that we are to get—and it probably will be—it is going to be up to us to remember that human statistics are a lot more important than financial statistics. That is, if we return to the kind of prosperity which paradoxically manages to exist alongside of continued unemployment and real suffering in the low-income brackets, we must remember that those problems still exist and that the men whom they afflict deserve our consideration. The man who can't for the life of him find a job is just as discouraged, just as miserable, and just as hungry when steel production is at 85 as when it is at 30. The man who has a job, but who gets from it so small an income that he can't buy the things he needs, is just as unhappy about it when the stock market is booming as when it is in a state of collapse. We have a way of forgetting those things when the wheels start humming. When the evidences of prosperity are conspicuous, we take it for granted that they are universal. And that, perhaps, was our chief fault in the great boom days of the '20s. A few years before that boom we had been deeply concerned over our social and economic problems. Great leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson and their like had made us aware that all was not well in the lower strata of our social structure. We had gradually been getting ourselves into a frame of mind to do something about it. But when the boom came, we couldn't be bothered. We swallowed the idiotic doctrine that "everybody" was in the stock market, that "everybody" was making money at a merry clip, that "everybody" was sharing in the good times. Half of our bewilderment in the depression came from the discovery that the doctrine simply wasn't true. So, before we move on into this coming prosperity, let's resolve to keep our eyes open. We don't need to start kidding ourselves just because 1937 is due to be a far better year than 1933. We would do better to remember that what has chiefly ailed us in recent years has been the unsolved problems of 1929." (editorial, Sept. 21, 1936)

"The placing of 109 people in employment during the month of August was the outstanding feature of the Morristown branch of the New Jersey State Employment Service. Of this number, 25 men and 42 women were given private positions...." (Sept. 22, 1936, p.1)

"**WASHINGTON**, (AP) – The Works Progress administration reported today a "serious situation" may develop in many New Jersey municipalities unless additional relief funds are provided. In a survey of twelve New Jersey communities, the Works Progress officials reported new methods of relief are needed in New Jersey municipalities which now are obligated to handle relief cases. The report showed many thousands of person were obliged to live on incomes drastically below that previously furnished by the federal and state governments....The twelve communities studied were Atlantic City, Buena Vista Township, Camden, Commercial Township, Ewing Township, Hamilton Township, Linden, Millville, New Brunswick, Orange, Paterson and Trenton." (Sept. 22, 1936, p.1)

"**TRENTON**, (AP) – For the fourth time in as many months new [sic] Jersey examined charges today that its attempt to make relief a municipal responsibility was a failure. In a survey of 12 New Jersey communities the Federal Works Progress Administration said it found the relief incomes were drastically below those under federal and state administration and found the "stage set for serious suffering by needy families." Many municipal officials immediately denied the charges and defended the system....The state was defended by the State Sales Tax Repeal Association, which fought against the sales tax for relief, and the New York Board of Trade which said its survey of Chambers of Commerce in New Jersey revealed "no acute suffering much less starvation among New Jersey's unemployed"....." (Sept. 23, 1936, p.1)

“**TRENTON** (AP) --Defending his “pay-as-you-go” policy the Governor suggested the root of the State’s financial ills was its local and State public debt....”I recommended and fought for the broadening of the tax base and the equalization of the tax burden to avoid the piling up of delinquent property taxes and the incurring of more debt,” he said....If we could cut the annual bill for interest in half, we could save an amount exceeding the annual yield of a two percent general sales tax.”....The Governor’s estimate of the debt he saved the state included retirement of \$8,530,000 in bonds on their due date; advance retirement of \$5,000,000 highway bonds due in 1951; refusal to sell \$14,400,000 in highway bonds. From this total the Governor deducted \$1,846,000 in institution construction bonds issued to match federal grants. Hoffman also said that for the first time New Jersey’s budget has included all expenditures without “camouflage.”State and local debt total more than \$1,300,000,000 he said, upon which annual interest payments are about \$55,000,000. He estimated about \$70,000,000 is needed annually to retire it. “I am unalterably opposed to mortgaging the future to meet the needs of the present—to saddling a huge burden of debt upon our children and our children’s children,” he said. “I do not believe in fooling the taxpayers as to the actual cost of government, and of the permanent improvements made by government, through resort to the deferred payment plan that mortgages our inheritance and drains our resources for the benefit of bondholders.” New Jersey residents pay about \$125,000,000 annually on interest and principal on their debts, the Governor said, about twice as much as it costs to maintain and operate the state government. Local governments cannot be placed on a cash basis without eliminating the weakness that made borrowing a necessity, Hoffman pointed out....” (Sept. 23, 1936, p.1)

An ad for the Morris County Building and Loan Association:

“**11 ½ YEAR PLAN**

Russia has tried one five year plan and has embarked on another. Germany has just undertaken a four year plan. How would you like to undertake a [sic] 11 ½ year plan to protect yourself and family against all the common hazards of life by participating in the distribution of a building loan maturity. There was never a time when people needed living protection more than they do today. We’ve tried to get rich quick. We’ve speculated before we were secure—and the results of it all are manifest. Business in the red, children growing up without a fund to send them to college, homes lost and men too old to work because of the absence of a reserve and something to fall back on. The Morris County Building and Loan Association has been helping your neighbors and friends to build living protection. Hundreds of them are building such reserves. This association has paid every obligation promptly and since November, 1932—years of depression, catastrophe and panic—has distributed to its certificate holders \$700,000, in maturities from 136 and 142 months....” (Sept. 23, 1936, p.3)

“Claiming it has taken on extra duties that required the hiring of additional workers, the Morris County Welfare Board yesterday asked the Board of Freeholders to appropriate \$7,500 more for salaries. Miss Edith F. McCully, director of welfare, informed the freeholders that “...The necessity for this request is due to the fact that with the termination of the Emergency Relief Administration we were obliged to assume the additional cost of Out Door Support and also with the change in the Old Age Assistance Law we have been obliged to increase our staff to take care of the large number of new applications....Morris County is one of the few counties that maintains a Welfare Board to administer its emergency relief and general welfare. It is necessary, therefore, to make special provisions to enable the county to obtain state aid.” (Sept. 24, 1936, p.1)

“**BOONTON** – The Boonton Community Relief Bureau...submitted its annual report. The

Bureau reported collections during its three year's existence as \$10,703.96 and expenditures of \$10,298.17, leaving a balance of \$405.79. The chief item on expenditures was labor which amounted to \$7,264.59. Another was relief cases amounting to \$1,151.19. The latter were cases where there was no one in the family to work or where there was some disability requiring attention. The third highest sum was for food and fuel, amounting to \$632.30. The expense of the latter was largely ameliorated by a wood-cutting project which furnished most of the fuel for the needy. Mrs. Elsa H. Guttman, president of the Woman's Club, presented a resolution that the work of the bureau be carried on the same as last year and that a drive committee be formed to collect not less than \$3,000....although the unemployment problem has largely abated there is still a great need for social service work...." (Sept. 24, 1936, p.1)

"The issues of the presidential campaign may be this, that, and the other thing....But it ought to be possible to strike a pretty fair balance on the things that all Americans, regardless of party, want to see done in the next four years....there are some things on which all of us agree. The common ideal of what America ought to be is not hard to define....First of all, obviously, we want a prosperous America; a land in which the paralyzing fear of unemployment and loss is lifted from worker, business man, and professional man....we simply ask that things be fixed, somehow, so that the man who is willing to get in there and pitch will be able to make a decent living. Secondly, we want peace....we don't want to get into any quarrel overseas. Thirdly, we would like to see the government do its very best to stop that destruction of national assets which has been dramatized of late in the form of dust storms, floods, erosion of rich farm land and the like....Fourth—or should this be put first of all?—we want the inspiring old ideal of a free, democratic, classless America preserved untarnished. We still believe that the class war of European ideology need not be fought on our soil; we still believe that our democratic institutions are priceless possessions. We do not want them limited...." (editorial, Sept. 24, 1936)

"**DENVILLE** – C. C. C. Company 1265 will observe the first anniversary of the arrival of its men with a gala weekend October 23 to 25. On Friday, October 23, a dance will be held in the recreation hall. The following afternoon, Andrew Rougvie's football eleven will be booked for a game, and Saturday evening a minstrel show will be directed at the hall by Miss Edith Emmett of Denville and Paul Hart of Dover. Open house will be Sunday." (Sept. 24, 1936, p.8)

"**PATERSON** – Fifteen New Jersey institutions, members of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium Conference of metropolitan New York, cared for 4,010 patients during the first six months of 1936....The average daily census was 2,420, a slight increase of 36 more patients every day over the same period a year ago. Men numbered 1,141, or 47% of the total; women, 902 or 38%, and children 377 or 15%....New Jersey institutions included...Shongum Mountain Sanatorium of Morris County....With some 2,000 deaths from tuberculosis annually still occurring in the State of New Jersey...there should be no let-up in facing this still serious threat to some of the best useful groups of the population, since the mortality still concentrates, and tuberculosis is the leading cause of death, in the age group 20 to 45 years of age...." (Sept. 24, 1936, p.16)

"A new plan under which Morris County municipalities would receive State aid for their unemployable or permanent relief cases was...discussed at the Court House this morning at a conference including Arthur Mudd director of the State Financial Assistance Commission; the County Welfare Board; and the Board of Freeholders. Because of the act setting up the welfare board in this county, municipalities here have been receiving State aid for their temporarily unemployed only, while the County has been bearing the expense of permanent relief cases. Such an arrangement has been keeping Morris County municipalities and the County itself from their share of State financial help for unemployables....Discrimination against municipalities in

this County, because it has a welfare board, was called “unfair” by Mudd today....The proposed plan, still in its formative stages, would affect only those municipalities who are recognized as eligible for aid under the SFAC. Such towns number about ten in this County at present, but potentially the new plan includes all Morris municipalities in that they might all, at some future time, have relief loads sufficiently heavy to be eligible for SFAC aid. If the plan is worked out, the various towns will apply for State financial help for their unemployables, and the reimbursements obtained will be turned over to the County to lighten its burden in paying, as it now does completely, for permanent relief....” (Sept. 25, 1936, p.1)

“By appropriating \$1,500,000 left over by the ERA when it went out of business in New Jersey the state authorities have contrived another patchwork agreement that staves off the immediate special session of the Legislature for which the municipalities have been clamoring and which timid lawmakers have been dreading. The \$1,500,000 added to the \$6,000,000 Dorrance death taxes, already available, will tide over the relief situation for a little longer and avert the “hunger march” for which preparations were already being made. It will be possible by stretching things to the limit to tide over the ugly situation until after Nov. 3, election day. After that anything is liable to happen....Someday the hour or reckoning will no longer be avoidable. There would now be a sensible plan in operation for the feeding and sheltering of the needy if the Legislature had been made up of men and women courageous enough to face a duty and perform it. New revenues would have been provided and the sales tax along modified lines would have been revived long ago if the legislators had not feared their enemies would play politics and bring about the defeat of those daring to vote for provision for new revenues before election day. The voters themselves are not entirely free from blame. If it were not so easy to fool many of them by wild attacks on comprehensive plans for needed relief revenues, the lawmakers might not be so timid. They might feel more certain that they would be able to justify their course in favor of new revenues and feel confident of backing by the electorate at the polls.” (editorial from the Jersey Journal, in the Daily Record Sept. 25, 1936, p.4)

“While the WPA report on relief conditions in New Jersey, authorized, it is believed, to discredit the New Jersey method of local relief administration, finds some things to criticize in conditions found by its investigators—conditions which Director Mudd, of the State Financial Assistance commission, declares have been much improved since state funds have become available to municipalities that need them—it credits the system with some virtues. A fair generalization would seem to be that large cities, particularly in North Jersey...can administer relief with their own organizations adequately and cheaper than a state administration. State control...it declares, is needed more in small communities, especially those in the southern part of the state. As stated in the report, results of the survey “demonstrate that decentralized relief administration at its best provides a type of care that compares well with former standards, and at its worst represents complete failure to meet the problems of persons destitute through no fault of their own. A part of this reduction has been made possible by having some of the investigations conducted by workers with other regularly assigned functions, such as policemen and firemen. Cost of delivering food orders have been reduced in some localities by requiring all clients to call at the relief station for their grants....Rent has been eliminated in some places where space has been made available in municipal buildings. Altogether this survey...has not been very successful in showing that our method of relief administration does not meet the needs of the relief clients as well as did the old system.” (editorial from the Paterson Call, appearing in the Morristown Daily Record Sept. 26, 1936, p.4)

“A few more weeks and...We shall have elected our president and our Congress.... But there is one thing we should not forget, though we shall find forgetting it very easy: the fact that this

country still contains a good many millions of men who need to work and want work, but who cannot find jobs....we shan't be able to pat ourselves on the back over our "recovery" until we have got their number whittled down very materially. Poverty, we need to remember—the kind of poverty which means absolute dependence on outside help, with the last resources gone and no job in sight—poverty is a disease in the body politic, and it is just as dangerous to those of us who happen to have jobs, bank accounts, and comfortably lined stomachs as an outbreak of Asiatic cholera would be. It may smolder along for quite a time, attacking only those whom we complacently look on as its natural victims; but it can spread with dire rapidity and strike into places where it never was known before. The depression must have taught us how fatally easy it is for the jobless unfortunate to infect the white collar man, the merchant, the manufacturer, even the banker. This disease can go like wildfire....the task that confronts us, then is that of finding jobs for men who need them—real, honest-to-goodness jobs, and not carefully invented bits of leaf-raking....We have a marvelous productive plant able to turn out everything from loaves of bread to steam shovels at a rate never dreamed of before in all history; we have a land brimming over with people who need things the plant can produce; we have, in short, the needs, the workers, and the capacity to make the one supply the other....The only danger is that a glimpse of returning prosperity might make us forget that the problem exists." (editorial, Sept. 30, 1936)