

3) Great Depression Dramas

This project can involve English, Art and Social Studies classes. Students study history, literature, drama and set and costume design. Teams should be organized at the start of the unit and should work on their production while the class is studying the time period. The goal for students is to demonstrate their understanding of the impact of the Great Depression on the American people.

Sample dramatic settings can include:

- members of a family and their lives in a "Hooverville"
- a public meeting where local government officials and citizens discuss New Deal relief proposals
- workers organizing a union or farmers responding to evictions
- Life on the road or in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

Questions to consider when dramatizing an historical event include:

- 1) What is the setting for your play?
- 2) What events will provide the drama for your production?
- 3) Who are the people in your production?
- 4) What ideas from class and your research will you include in the play?
- 5) How have events and social position affected the people in your play?
- 6) How will your dialogue show the feelings of participants in play?
- 7) What message do you want viewers to learn from your play?
- 8) What props and costumes will you need?
- 9) What will be the background for your stage?
- 10) How long will the play last?

4) Fireside Chats

Franklin Roosevelt became President of the United States during a time of bank failures, high unemployment and suffering by the American people. At his inauguration, he promised a "New Deal" for Americans. In order to secure public confidence in the economy, FDR promoted recovery, relief and reform.

Periodically, FDR addressed the nation by radio to discuss his proposals. These talks have become known as "Fireside Chats." They explained new legislation or programs, calmed public fears and enlisted political support. They are an early example of the use of the mass media to shape public opinion.

In this project, individual students write, perform and audio tape a "fireside chat" designed to explain and sell a New Deal reform proposal to the American public. Students submit both a transcript and the audio tape for evaluation.

Possible topics include the Emergency Banking Relief Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Recovery Administration, the Wagner Act, Social Security, the Security and Exchange Commission, Home Relief proposals, public housing projects, the Works Progress Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps or proposed Supreme Court reform.

Each "fireside chat" should include the following:

- An explanation of the purpose of the proposed reform.
- A description of how the proposal will benefit each American and the nation as a whole.
- An appeal for the support of the American people to make the new proposal work.

This project teaches students how to make a persuasive argument that uses evidence to support their opinions and gives them an opportunity to develop oral presentation skills. While individuals present their "fireside chats" in class, other students evaluate their performance, further developing their own critical listening and analyzing skills.

5) Alphabet Agency Posters

The New Deal introduced the idea that active government was the solution to the problems created by the Great Depression. A number of government agencies were created to address these problems. Many of the agencies were best known to the public by their initials, the TVA, NRA, CCC, AAA and WPA. For this project, students shall investigate the purpose of an agency and design and create a poster or mural that explains its role to the American people. This project works best when done in conjunction with an art teacher.

As students design their posters, they should consider the following questions:

- Does the poster show the work being done by the agency?
- How is the work being portrayed?
- Does it illustrate the way the agency benefits the public?
- Will this poster win public support for the program?
- How does this poster present the New Deal's broader idea of active government as a solution to the problems created by the Great Depression?

Posters can be exhibited in a school gallery with student artists having the opportunity to explain their work to students in other classes, to staff, and to parents.

6) Depression Era Oral History

Conducting their own oral history interviews and writing the stories that people tell them, allows students to become historians themselves. Some students may have grandparents, great-grandparents or other relatives who remember the Great Depression and New Deal and are willing to come to class to talk with students. Volunteers can also come from local Senior Citizens Centers, union retirement programs or church groups. Many seniors will agree to be videotaped.

Working in groups or as a class, students should make a list of interview questions. A small group can actually conduct the interview, while other students take notes. As a follow-up, students should use their notes and the videotape to write their versions of the person's story.

Helpful hints for conducting a successful interview include:

- Have plenty of paper to write notes about the answers to interview questions, but don't worry if you miss something. The videotape allows for a permanent record that you can review.
- Let the person being interviewed speak. Don't interrupt! Show the person that you are interested in what he or she has to say. Give them respect. Be a good listener.
- Ask open-ended questions. Allow the person being interviewed time to think and the freedom to wander with their answers. Avoid questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no," or questions that can be answered with one or two words. Instead of asking, "Do you remember President Roosevelt?", ask, "What did you think of President Roosevelt?"

This is an especially valuable project that enhances student listening and writing skills and enlarges student understanding of the role of the historian. Students can also become involved in comparing information gathered during their interviews with things they learned from other sources.

7) Union Song Book and Music Video

It is often difficult to find out what ordinary people from the past thought of events because they left few written records. However, the ideas of working people about the conditions of their lives and about the New Deal labor union upsurge are well documented in the songs that workers sang as they organized unions and marched on picket lines. These songs have been saved in recordings by Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. Good written

collections are included in Carry It On! by Pete Seeger and Bob Reiser and Songs of Work and Freedom by Edith Fowke and Joe Glazer. Students can read, discuss and sing labor songs from the 1920's and 1930's and produce their own Union Song Book or music video. They can write introductions to the songs and even rewrite and update them. Really adventurous students can rework songs so that they reflect contemporary music genres like rap or rock.

Some songs to consider using are "The Soup Song", "Which Side Are You On?", "Beans, Bacon and Gravy", "I Don't Want Your Millions, Mister", "We Shall Not Be Moved", "Talking Union", "I am a Union Woman", "Sit Down", "This Land is Your Land", and "Union Maid".

8) The WPA Guide to Your Community

In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration sponsored Federal Writers' Project Guides to communities all over the United States. In addition, the Farm Security Administration funded professional photographers to document life in the United States. In this full class project, students can examine sample guides and photos and use them as a model to create a WPA-style guide to their own community. Student teams can subdivide the project. Teams can investigate and write about the geography of the community, its history, its architecture, local businesses, community resources and important individuals.

9) New Deal Debate - Did the New Deal "solve" the Great Depression?

Divide the class in half. One team of students will defend the New Deal. One team of students will criticize it. It may be useful to have the class draw up a list of the New Deal's supporters and opponents. Teams can meet periodically during the unit to review their notes, assign students to do more research and to prepare statements for the debate. Current political debates can be incorporated into their presentations.

This project encourages students to use facts to support their conclusions, to listen to ideas expressed by other people and to work cooperatively. A rule during the debate is that every team member must get a chance to speak.

10) Book Review

Students can read and write about literature from and about the Great Depression and New Deal. One suggestion is A Taste of Daylight by Crystal Trasher. The book involves a story of how a midwestern family survives the Great Depression. The problems of "Dust Bowl" farmers are illustrated, as well as the plight and poverty experienced by rural Americans. The story gives an example of the emotional effects of the Depression on people, as well as its effects on the community.

11) Great Depression Diary

As a final project, students can demonstrate what they learned about the Great Depression and New Deal by writing a diary from the perspective of someone who was living through the period. The assignment described here asks students to write from the perspective of a teenager living in New York City. However, they can write from the perspective of any social group in any part of the country. Possible perspectives include Southern Black tenant farmers, California migrant farm workers, Pittsburgh steel mill workers and members of the middle or upper class.

DIRECTIONS: Your assignment is to create entries in the diary of a teenager living in New York City during the Great Depression. As this teenager, you belong to an extended family (one grandparent, two parents, three children - ages 22, 14 and 11). Your diary entries, in correct chronological order, must include the following elements:

- the hardships endured by families during the Great Depression
- effects of the Depression on cities
- explanation of Hoover's plan for economic recovery and citizen reactions
- support or opposition to the election of FDR
- ways in which family members or community is helped or hurt by New Deal programs
- ways in which family was helped or hurt by New Deal legislation
- changes in the way people live during the Depression
- description of a "fireside chat" by FDR
- ways that working conditions of family members were changed by the depression, the New Deal and by the building of new unions
- reaction of yourself and family to New Deal; support or opposition.

You may create as many diary entries as you need to meet the above requirements, but there must be a minimum of twenty. Remember, the diary entries are to be written in first-person narrative and not as an essay about the Great Depression. Use descriptive writing to illustrate your ideas. It must seem as if your character has lived through the Great Depression. Your first entry should be dated October 30, 1929.

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Then and Now

This project is reproduced from
 "http://www.sos.state.mi...f/depressn/costlist.html".

Students can compare the cost of food, toys, household items, and clothing during the Great Depression and today. The costs for food, clothing and household items are listed on the charts below. Students can check newspapers on microfilm to find out food prices.

While the prices were much lower during the 1930s, that can be misleading. Students should use the "Hourly Wages: Then and Now" chart to find out how long someone would have to work in the 1930s and today to be able to purchase these items. To do this, figure out how many hours of work it would take to purchase an item.

Prices: Then and Now

Women's Clothes	Then	Now
Winter Coat	\$28.00	
Sweater	\$1.00	
Men's Clothes		
Dress Shirt	\$1.00	
Overcoat	\$18.50	
Toys		
Action Toy	3 for 59 cents	
Doll	\$1.95	
Household Items		
Sewing Machine	\$23.95	
Washing Machine	\$33.50	

Hourly Wages: Then and Now

Job Category	Hourly Wages, Then	Hourly Wages, Now
Manufacturing Worker	42 cents	\$12.50
Cook	37 cents	\$5.90
Doctor	\$1.53	\$45.00
Accountant	\$1.12	\$17.50

Newspaper Reports on the Great Depression and New Deal on Long Island - Chronology in a National Context

1930

In January, with the economy sinking and unemployment reaching four million, President Herbert Hoover and Congressional leaders discussed establishing public works programs. In April, Congress appropriated \$300 million for federal aid for road construction. In September, the State Department prohibited immigration by almost all foreign laborers because of high unemployment. Despite 4.5 million unemployed in October, President Hoover called for "individual and local responsibility" to pull the nation through the depression. An unhappy American public elected a Democratic majority to the House of Representatives in mid-term elections. By December, there had been approximately 1,300 bank closures in the U.S. since the stock market collapse.¹

Mayor Abolishes Jobs in Long Beach *The New York Times*, January 9, 1930

The first move in Mayor Frankel's proposed program of economy in government was made here today when it was announced that several city jobs had been abolished, a general wage cut for city employees was also put into effect. The amount of money saved totals \$73,604.80. per year. The engineering department was abolished entirely, a special auditor, a custodian, a stenographer, seven inspectors, and an assistant engineer were also dropped from the payroll. The water department was also hard hit. The city treasurer, auditor and corporation counsel were among those whose pay was lowered.

Questions:

1. What jobs were cut by Mayor Frankel? Why?
2. How do you think the people who were fired felt? Explain your answer.

36 City Laborers Lose Long Beach Jobs *The New York Times*, January 10, 1930

Another drastic cut in the number of city employees was made here today by Mayor Frankel. Thirty-six laborers who had been employed at highway maintenance and various odd jobs about the city were dropped from the payroll. The cut took effect tonight. Seven foreman were retained. The reason given by the Mayor for the laying off of these men was that there was no work for them to do, nor was there money enough in the city treasury to pay them.

Questions:

1. Why were the laborers fired?
2. As a taxpayer in Long Beach, how would you feel about this? Why?
3. In your opinion, could something else have been done to save these jobs?

¹Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., ed. *The Almanac of American History* (New York: Putnam, 1983)

Mayor Secures Work for Unemployed Here Labor Bureau Formed
Long Beach Life, January 30, 1930

A partial relief to the unemployment here has been effected through the efforts of Mayor Frankel and E. B. Sonner, division Plant Superintendent of the New York Telephone company, by the employment of 24 local men on Thursday on construction work being done by the company in Long Beach. It is estimated the work will take about three month's time to complete. These jobs would hold the men over the winter. Mayor Frankel will also take up the situation with the Long Beach Gas and the Long Beach Power companies, and request that these companies give work to the local residents whenever possible.

Questions:

1. How many men received jobs? For how long?
2. What is the work arrangement between Mayor Frankel and the New York Telephone?
3. In your opinion, why did the Mayor seek a short-term solution to unemployment?

Mayor Establishes Welfare Board to Help City's Needy
Long Beach Life, February 11, 1930

A centralized Welfare Board was established on Thursday night at a meeting in Mayor Frankel's office with the mayor's welfare committee and I. Frank, commissioner of charities. Its purpose is to give immediate relief to needy cases.

Question: What is the purpose of the welfare board?

Welfare Officer Says Charity Work is Fast Increasing
The Hempstead Sentinel, March 13, 1930

From a budget of \$13,000 twenty five years ago, the Welfare Department of the Town of Hempstead during this year will spend \$200,000 in taking care of poor needy families. Arthur H. Goldsmith, Chief Welfare Officer, told members of the Lions Club yesterday noon. "Our work in the past year had increased greatly," Mr. Goldsmith said. He assigned this to a variety of causes including unemployment, growth in population, and sickness of wage earners. Quoting from the figures he had, Mr. Goldsmith said that two years ago his department had aided 2,000 persons in 441 families, while in the past year the number had increased to 2,965 persons in 639 families.

Questions:

1. How much money will Hempstead spend on welfare in 1930?
2. According to Mr. Goldsmith, why is the budget for the welfare department increasing?

Governor Asks Supervisors To Assist In Unemployment Situation
The Hempstead Sentinel, May 8, 1930

The County Supervisors on Monday read a long letter from Governor Roosevelt in which the States' Chief Executive refers to the unemployment situation and asks co-operation from the various counties for an early letting of contracts for road work to aid the unemployment situation.

Charles B. Davey, Clerk to the Supervisors was directed to write to the Governor showing him Nassau's co-operation. Mr. Doughty added that he would ask County Engineer W. Fred Starks to get in touch with Mr. Darcy of the State Department and urge him to bring the Burnside Avenue work to completion. "We are performing our duty but the State is not," Mr. Doughty said, declaring finally that a conference should be held with State Commissioner Arthur W. Brandt.

Questions

1. Why does the Governor think that road repair will help solve the problem of unemployment?
2. Why does Nassau County Supervisor Doughty criticize the New York State government?

Welfare Officer Sees Many Families Threatened With The Loss Of Their Homes
The Hempstead Sentinel, July 31, 1930

"Numerous persons throughout the Town of Hempstead are threatened with a loss of their homes because they are unable to meet interest charges and pay their taxes because they have been out of employment for a considerable periods," Arthur H. Goldsmith Hempstead Town Welfare Officer, said this morning.

"There seems to be no way that money can be secured to help people in these circumstances," said Mr. Goldsmith. "My department has had more demands made upon it recently than in any other similar period in the past ten years," he added. "We can help them with their rent, buy them groceries and even supply coal, but there is no provision in the law for the payment of their taxes or interest charges on mortgages," the Welfare Officer said.

Questions

1. Why are families being threatened with the loss of their homes?
2. Why does Mr. Goldsmith think there is a problem with the law?
3. Suppose you are an elected official. Make a suggestion for solving this problem.

Appeals for Jobs for Out of Work Men and Women
The Hempstead Sentinel, August 28, 1930

"Give someone a job for a month, a week, a day, but give them a job," is the appeal being made to Hempstead and Garden City residents by a group of women who have opened a free employment service, and food distributing station at 95 Main Street. "We have a list of fifty workers, women and men," said Mrs. N.R. Sampson of Nassau Boulevard, who had taken the lead in the Bureau and they are willing to do almost anything. "What is needed right now more than anything else is jobs," said Mrs. Samson. "We certainly can all afford to give a man, or a woman a job one day a week and if we do that we will be helping considerably to tide these poor folk over the present emergency."

Questions:

1. What program was established by Mrs. Sampson?
2. In your opinion, will her proposal help to solve the problem of unemployment? Explain your answer.

Sees Government Should Make Jobs For Unemployed
The Hempstead Sentinel, October 30, 1930

Setting up government Labor Bureaus as one means of correcting the present great problem of unemployment was a suggestion made by the Rev. Francis J. Healey, rector of St. Joseph's Church at Garden City. "The existence of unemployment is not due to any political situation but is rather the result of our system of economics," Father Healey held. "Three and a half millions of people out of work, some are to blame for this situation themselves, others won't work, but there are millions who can't find work. I don't believe it is political but is the logical sequence of economics. This cycle of unemployment is a result of overproduction. The machine age has made human labor almost unnecessary. America is too sensible to become communistic or radical socialistic but the government should set up the machinery to supply the worker with work."

Questions:

1. Who is Father Healey?
2. What is his proposal to help people find jobs?
3. Why does Father Healey think so many people are unemployed?
4. Do you agree with Father Healey's ideas? Why or why not?

Suggest Tree Trimming Jobs for Unemployed
The Hempstead Sentinel, November 20, 1930

The trimming of tree throughout the entire county of Nassau, on the public highways, in the big estates and on the smaller properties, was suggested Monday by Elvin N. Edwards, District Attorney before the Directors of Hempstead Association of Commerce as one means of relieving the unemployment situation. "There is plenty of work to do in the county, and all it needs is organizing-- not through doleing out charity, but let a man do self respecting work," declared the District Attorney. He said that the trimming of trees on the highways, in the large and small estates would put hundreds to work. Fixing up of the trees would add beauty and life to the trees and incidentally it would prevent accidents as there are many trees that are dangerous because of their condition.

Questions:

1. What does District Attorney Edwards propose as a solution to unemployment?
2. Why does he believe this is a useful plan?
3. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Unemployed Have Boosted the Total Welfare Cases
The Hempstead Sentinel, November, 20, 1930

One thousand six hundred eighty-one persons are receiving aid from the Town through its welfare department, according to figures compiled this week by Robert D. Campbell, Chief Welfare Officer of Hempstead Town. Eight principal causes are responsible for people applying to the Welfare Department for assistance, Mr. Campbell points out, and one of the main factors this year is the unemployed, 181 of the 400 cases have resulted from unemployment. Of the other cases, 95 are because of sickness, 31 desertion, 11 non-support, 13 widows, 15 whose husbands are in jail, 10 mental cases and 44 due to old age, The cost of the Town for its 400 cases during the first two weeks of November totaled \$11,618.61.

Questions:

1. What are the main reasons people are applying for welfare?
2. How much does this cost the town?
3. In your opinion, should the town provide help for people? Why?

Seventy-Four Men Now Employed on Storm Drains
Long Beach Life, November, 29, 1930

Seventy-four men are now at work on the sewers, reports the assistant to the mayor, Thomas, J. Hogan, and that partially relieves the unemployment here. In comparing the pay of these men with other cities, Mr. Hogan declared that in Columbus, Ohio, the men are being given work for three days a week at \$5.50 per day, and in New York City the men are given the same amount at \$5 per day. In Long Beach the men are given three days work each week at \$6.40 per day. Preference has been given to married men with families and war veterans.

Questions:

1. How many men are being employed to work on sewers in Long Beach?
2. Who gets priority for hiring? Do you agree with this? Why?

1931

In September and October 1931, over 800 more U.S. banks close. In December, hundreds of hunger marchers demonstrate in Washington DC seeking employment and a minimum wage. In a December message to Congress, President Hoover requests the establishment of an emergency reconstruction program and public works jobs.

Local Committee Open Office to Aid Unemployed

The Hempstead Sentinel, January 22, 1931

Assistance to Hempstead's jobless residents in their search for work was given by a public employment office opened this week at 43 Centre Street. It is under the direction of a local committee with Dr. Francis P. Hamlet as its chairman. It was started Tuesday and evidence of its need was shown in the applications that immediately begun to come in. The employment bureau became a reality after the meeting of the committee in the municipal building Monday night. The meeting was attended by about 500 person, including representatives from the Lions Club, the Elks, Knights of Columbus, the Masons, American Legion, all the churches and various other societies, The mayor complimented the committee and representatives for their civic spirit and assured them they would have the support of the village board.

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of this committee?
2. In your opinion, why are so many local organizations participating in this committee?

Strike Forces State to take over Work at Jones Beach State Park

Long Beach Life, January 31, 1931

Work on the construction of the new bath house, swimming pool, and restaurant at Jones Beach State Park which is over half completed had been stopped due to a dispute between labor unions as to whether derrick men and riggers must be employed to move the stone to the masons on the job. Over one hundred and twenty five union men have been thrown out of employment by this dispute between two unions as to whose members shall be employed. The representative of the Labor Department urged the unions to get together and settle their differences so that work can be immediately resumed.

Question:

1. What is the dispute between the two unions?
2. In your opinion, why are the unions involved in this dispute?

Roosevelt Starts New Road Project

The New York Times, July 27, 1931

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt ended his tour of Long Island yesterday with an extensive swing through Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The tour took him to Jones Beach, Valley Stream and a point on the Nassau-Queens boundary near Little Neck where he officiated at the beginning of construction on a new traffic link.

Refraining from political discussion, the Governor devoted the day to an inspection of the state beach development at Jones Beach, a personal investigation of a proposed grade-crossing elimination on the Sunrise Highway, and the laying of the cornerstone near Little Neck for the work which will tie up the Grand Central Parkway in Queens and the new Northern State Parkway in Nassau.

Questions:

1. Why are these projects important for Long Island?
2. In your opinion, why did Governor Roosevelt avoid political discussion?

30 Of Hempstead's Unemployed Given Places This Week

The Hempstead Sentinel, November 26, 1931

William L. Powers, Chairman of Mayor Chamberlin's Unemployment Relief Committee, announced that jobs for thirty of Hempstead's 110 unemployed have been found. The thirty are working at jobs created by the County Highway Department and also in cooperation with the Nassau County Emergency Work Bureau. Powers stated that, "the workers will each receive three days of work a week", and also that each person put to work are men with at least one child in their family.

Questions:

1. What is the Town of Hempstead doing to help the unemployed?
2. Why were men with children given the Highway jobs?
3. How many people are still unemployed in Hempstead? In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to help them? Why?

See Nassau County Spending \$1,200,000 In 1932 For Work Relief, Charities And Welfare

The Hempstead Sentinel, December 17, 1931

Nassau County may spend more than \$1,200,000 for public welfare charities next year. Last year \$384,449.20 had been spent. This year, so far, \$638,449.20 has been spent. A budget has been set for 1932 for \$735,046.75, exclusive of the emergency work and home relief funds. Henry Root Stern, chairman of the Work Relief Bureau stated, "if complete relief was given for one year, it would cost about \$1,000,000, of which about half would be refunded by state allocations".

Questions:

1. How much money was spent on welfare, charities and work relief in 1930? How much money was spent in 1931? How much will be spent in 1932?
2. Why is so much more money being spent on welfare, charities and work relief?
3. Draw a graph showing the changes in money spent on welfare, charities and work relief?

Investigation Is Disclosing Shocking Conditions Here

The Hempstead Sentinel, December 31, 1931

William L. Powers, Chairman of the Mayor's Unemployment Relief Committee, has found shocking conditions he never imagined existing after investigations of families in Hempstead. Police have been so moved and shocked by these conditions, that many have asked to be released from this assignment. Powers said, "the unemployment enrollment number is 593, with a total of 3,087 dependents." He also stated, "the white collar element don't register." He said possibly that there are 300-400 of these white collar workers unemployed in Hempstead. Right now only 17 men are working for the county and six others have been put to work by the villages.

Powers has found children in scant clothes and soleless shoes. This week he will open a clothing distribution and receiving station. The majority of the unemployed come from the new south and east areas of the village. Powers said he will help all the unemployed because, "It is Hempstead's job and we are going to do it".

Questions:

1. How many people are officially unemployed in Hempstead?
2. How many dependents are there in families of unemployed workers?
3. According to Mr. Powers, which category of unemployed workers is not registering for help?
4. In your opinion, why do some unemployed workers refuse to register for help?

1932

In an April speech, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York State calls for concern for "the forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid." In May, World War I veterans begin to arrive in Washington DC to demand payment of a bonus payment. The House of Representatives passes a bonus bill but it is defeated in the Republican controlled Senate. The Democratic Party nominated Franklin D. Roosevelt for President at its June convention in Chicago. In July, President Hoover signs a Relief and Reconstruction Act. On July 28 and 29, the Washington police force and army troops burn their camp and drive protesting veterans out of the nation's capital. In August, the federal government declares a moratorium on foreclosures on first mortgages. On November 8, Franklin Roosevelt is elected President of the United States.

The Bonus March

2,500,000 Veterans Sign Bonus Petition
The New York Times, March 26, 1932

2,500,000 ex-service men (World War I veterans) have asked that their adjusted service certificates be paid immediately. This plea will go before Speaker Garner and the House in two weeks. The service men are calling their group, The Disabled American Veterans, The First Reserve Association and other names. The veterans are happy that the bill is gaining sentiment throughout the country.

Republicans in both the House and the Senate have said that if the bill gets to the floor, "Nothing on earth can stop its' passage." New York Representative Bacon is worried about the bill. "It will simply double the deficit. It is simply another crazy democratic plan!" It was stated by many representatives that this battle between democrats and republicans on the bill issue will probably drag on into the presidential elections, and possibly beyond.

Questions:

1. Why do you think that ex-service men are asking for this money?
2. What is the position of Long Island Congressional Representative Bacon on this issue?
3. Why do many people feel this debate between will continue during the presidential election?
4. In your opinion, should the World War I veterans receive their bonuses.? Why?

Roosevelt Charges Federal Neglect Of "Little Fellow"
The New York Times, April 8, 1932

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a radio speech, said that, "The little fellow had been beyond the range of vision of the Hoover Administration." The Governor made this speech to asked American people to think about what the President was really doing to lift the country out of its' depression.

Roosevelt said that this crisis was "more grave" to the nation than entering the Great War in 1917. Comparing Hoover to Napoleon on how both treated the "little people," Roosevelt said that Washington, "has either forgotten or does not want to remember the infantry of our economy army." Roosevelt ended his speech by saying that depression relief must go to the "forgotten man" on the bottom of the economic pyramid first and then other problems can then be solved.

Questions:

1. Who are the "little fellow" and the "forgotten man"?
2. How does Governor Roosevelt challenge President Hoover in this speech?
3. Do you agree with Governor Roosevelt? Why or why not?

Parade To Capitol In Plea For Bonus

The New York Times, April 9, 1932

More than 1,200 veterans marched to the capitol steps yesterday in a demonstration to Congress for passage of a \$2,600,000,000 bonus bill. The veterans were armed with petitions filled with 10-600 names each. The petitions supposedly included some 2,240,000 names including 199,904 names from New York State. The mass meeting was orderly, and the 500 policemen called in were not needed. Representative Rainey, head of the House Ways and Means Committee, accepted the petitions with "great pleasure".

Questions:

1. Why did the veterans march to the capitol building in Washington DC?
2. In your opinion, why does the New York Times article say that "The petitions supposedly included some 2,240,000 names"?

Weary Bonus Army Reaches Capitol By Truck

The New York Times, May 30, 1932

With American flags with them, sixteen truckloads of war veterans arrived at the capitol vowing to remain in Washington until Congress pays them their bonuses in full. Weary, hungry, and dirty from their trek, the former soldiers had hitchhiked to the capital. They were not given trucks until they got to Maryland. Many had hitchhiked, including 330 from the Pacific Coast, and they were surprised to find food and coffee waiting for them. There was no shouting or demonstrations as the soldiers went to buildings where they will be allowed to sleep. It is estimated that as many as 3,200 veterans are in these buildings waiting for Congress to pay their bonuses.

Questions:

1. Why are veterans camping out at the Capitol building in Washington DC?
2. In your opinion, why are the veterans displaying the American flag?

Veterans Here Off To Capitol As House Forces A Bonus Vote

The New York Times, June 5, 1932

500 Veterans from New York began their march to the capitol to demand their bonuses, but were forced to stop in Elizabeth, New Jersey when their plea for a free train ride was rejected. Police have said that they believe some of the marchers from New York might be Communists. Some of the marchers had started the march from Union Square in New York City under the auspices of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League, an organization believed to have Communist leanings. Other marchers, believed to be "American", were from Brooklyn, and met up with the alleged Communists along the way. While both groups claimed that they were all good Americans, the group from Brooklyn went on to say, "We are going to Washington to demand our bonus. We don't want to have anything to do with the 'other' fellows."

Questions:

1. Why are the New York veterans having difficulty getting to Washington, DC?
2. Why are the police suspicious of some of the New York marchers?
3. In your opinion, does it make a difference if some of the marchers believe in communism? Explain your views?

City Bonus Hikers To Get Fare Home
The New York Times, June 11, 1932

Governor Roosevelt has said he will provide railroad transportation out of the "bonus army" camp for bona fide residents of New York City stranded in the capital. A \$1,000 donation was given anonymously to help veterans of New York City return home. Roosevelt said this and other donations will help 800 New Yorkers come home.

Questions:

1. In your opinion, why is Governor Roosevelt making this announcement?
2. Do you think the veterans will accept this offer? Why or why not?

Bonus Bill Passes In House, 209-176: Senate To Rush Vote
The New York Times, June 16, 1932

The House passed the Patman Bill yesterday, which is expected to give \$2,400,000,000 to pay the rest of the soldier's benefits. The vote was then sent to the Senate. The Bonus marchers cheered when they heard of the vote. The bonus certificates will not become due until 1945 which has angered some of the veterans. Many in the House said that they are doubtful whether the bill will pass the Senate, or be approved by President Hoover. The President has let many know that he will not approve the bill. Fifty-six Senators are reportedly backing the President's veto, which would help block the bill from passing the Senate. Those who favor the bill are hoping that the President, "will not dare" veto this measure if he hopes to win the election in November.

Activity: Write a letter to President Hoover. Explain your views on the veteran's bonus bill.

Senate Defeats Bonus, Despite 10,000 Veterans Masses Around Capitol
The New York Times, June 18, 1932

The bonus bill to issue \$2,400,000,000 in new currency to past War veterans was defeated in the Senate last night by a vote of 62-18. Many present said it was the tensest day in Capitol history since the World War. Tensions rose as the vote was announced, and for the first time, the bonus army seemed to get out of hand. Commander-in-Chief Walters appealed to the men to return to their encampments, while others appealed for the men to rally. While the announcement of the vote first stunned the veterans into silence, they were soon yelling and were reluctant to leave the Capitol steps. Some feared that they would be told to go back home. Many of these unemployed men have no homes to go back to.

The veterans began planning their next move which included bringing pressure on the Democratic National Convention to make the Bonus payment issue a major part of their campaign. Authorities are worried about the veterans staying in the capitol, and worry about violence against the Senate now that the vote is known.

Questions:

1. How did the defeat of the bonus bill affect the veterans?
2. Why do some of the veterans have uncertain feelings about returning home?
3. In your opinion, will the defeat of the bonus bill lead to violent protests? Why or why not?

Editorial: The Bonus Vote
The New York Times, June 19, 1932

For the "Bonus army", the vote of the Senate means defeat. These men have neither work nor money, and with blind faith alone, they have thrown themselves at the mercy of Congress. They feel it is the government's duty and obligation to pay them the honest money they are due. Congress is not fulfilling their duties.

Questions:

1. Is the writer of this editorial sympathetic to the veterans?
2. In your own opinion, is the government supposed to take care of people? Explain.

Nassau Legion Votes For Bonus
The Farmingdale Post, July 29, 1932

The Nassau County American Legion held its fourteenth annual convention last Saturday. Among resolutions adopted by the 200 delegates were the repeal of the 18th Amendment and the passage of the bonus resolution. The bonus resolution precipitated a lengthy argument but finally was adopted by a vote of 157 to 37. Moses G. Hubas, State commander, who has been booed at previous county appearances when he spoke in opposition to bonus legislation, was greeted with silence when he urged Legion members not to, "injure" the country with their actions. This was taken to mean that the members should not seek the passing of the Bonus Bill.

Questions

1. How do Nassau County veterans feel about the bonus bill? Explain.
2. Why does Moses Hubas think that the bonus will injure the country?

Suffolk Veterans Oppose Cash Bonus
The New York Times, July 31, 1932

The Suffolk American Legion Convention, held in Port Jefferson L.I., went on record as saying that they are opposed to the immediate payment of the bonus to veterans. This vote was not unanimous by any means, as many from Bay Shore and Brentwood were in favor of immediate payments. A Roll-call was needed in order to settle the question. The final vote opposing the payment was 89 to 58. While a few delegates referred to the bonus marchers in Washington at this very moment, the majority of delegates were determined to keep quiet on the subject, and the discussion was dropped.

Questions:

1. In your opinion, why was the Suffolk meeting divided on the bonus bill?
2. In your opinion, why did the majority of the delegates remain silent on events in Washington?

Troops Drive Vets From Capitol, Fire Camps There And At Anacostia
The New York Times, July 29, 1932

As flames rose from the Anacostia flats, veterans left the area that had been their home for the past two months going they knew not where. Cavalry stood guard on the bridges leading to the camps to make sure all were leaving. The veterans were being forced to leave on behest of the military forces of the government, summoned by President Hoover himself. The President said he had to do this because confrontations had begun between bonus marchers and the police. Many of the marchers were believed to be Reds and this is what sparked the riot with police. One marcher was left dead as a result. Tear gas, guns, and fire were all employed to rid the shanty town of bonus marchers. President Hoover said this was necessary. Hoover also said that many of the marchers probably did not know that they were sharing quarters with violent Communists with criminal records. He stated, "The veterans amongst these numbers are no doubt unaware of the character of their companions and are being led into violence which no government can tolerate."

Questions:

1. What happened to the bonus marchers?
2. According to President Hoover, why were the bonus marchers forced to leave the capitol?
3. In your opinion, did the charge of communist influence justify what happened? Explain.
4. How do you think these events will affect the presidential election? Why?

The 1932 Presidential Election

Republicans Gain In Nassau County

The Farmingdale Post, March 25, 1932

Figures from last year show that there are twice as many Republicans as Democrats registered in Nassau County. This indicates what may be confidently expected at the election next November.

The Town of Hempstead made a record gain of 4,856 Republicans against 2,696 Democrats. Although mostly Democrats were elected to office in Glen Cove City, 233 more Republicans than Democrats registered there in 1931. This shows a remarkable Republican majority for the Presidential candidate next fall. The County wide situation therefore, is extremely favorable for a long continuance of the sane, high-type government which justifies Nassau's reputation as the 'Banner County.' Republican power in Nassau County will lead to greater and more intelligent activity from Committeemen, as Republicans know what is needed for our residents. This is most evident when people move from the city to our county and change their political affiliation on arrival to Nassau with a "sweet reasonability seldom so apparent in other places."

Questions:

1. Which political party has the most supporters in Nassau County in 1932?
2. What do you think the article means when it credits Republicans for "the sane, high-type government which justifies Nassau's reputation as the 'Banner County'"?
3. In your opinion, what does Nassau's continuation as a Republican stronghold suggest about the impact of the Great Depression on the people of Long Island? Explain.

Democrats See County Gains

The Farmingdale Post, April 22, 1932

Philip N. Krug, chairman of the Nassau Democratic Committee, predicted that Nassau would go to the Democratic column this fall in the Presidential election. He compared this situation to what happened in Brooklyn twenty years ago. Although Krug admitted that Nassau is "The banner Republican county at the moment", he predicted that the banner would shrink to the proportion of a pennant in November.

Questions:

1. What do the Democrats expect to happen to the Republicans in the fall 1932 election?
2. In your opinion, why are the Democrats optimistic about the possibility of change?

Nassau G.O.P. Party to Attend Convention

The Farmingdale Post, June 3, 1932

Nassau County Republicans who would like to attend the convention at Chicago, the week of June 14th, are invited to make reservations with Mrs. Frank E. Brown without delay. The party will leave New York at 6 o'clock on Monday June 12th and return the following Saturday.

Once in Chicago, the Nassau Republican delegation will stay in The Hotel Morrison. The party will return through the picturesque Ohio Valley, and then come down to Long Island through Buffalo. The scenery viewed from the train is most rugged and beautiful.

Question: In your opinion, why is the Republican Convention described in this way?

Roosevelt Puts Economic Recovery First In His Acceptance Speech

The New York Times, July 3, 1932

After serving nearly 30 years in the Senate, Speaker of the House John Nance Garner, was nominated as Democratic Candidate as Vice President of the United States. The noisy convention who for the first time were in complete agreement on Garner's nomination, cheered as the vote made it official. Garner stated that instead of splintering apart as Republicans predicted, the Democrats remained strong and by naming Franklin D. Roosevelt for President, "have chilled the heart of every Republican in the United States." The floor of the convention in Chicago erupted in cheers at this statement. More and more people are joining the Democratic camp because they feel it is the where real progressive leadership awaits them.

Many predicted that Roosevelt and Garner will lead the Democratic party to the greatest victory it has ever achieved. Roosevelt flew to Chicago to accept the nomination after Garner's speech. Many questioned why the Governor used an airplane to get to the convention. Roosevelt said he did it to, "bring forward the idea of getting the campaign started. I believe that there are votes to be made in July."

Questions:

1. Why are the Democrats enthusiastic about the nominations of Roosevelt and Garner?
2. Why did Roosevelt use an airplane to travel to the convention?
3. In your opinion, why are Americans interested in Progressive leadership?

Vunk Appointed Supreme Court Judge

The Farmingdale Post, July 15, 1932

Former County Judge John R. Vunk, of Patchogue, has been appointed by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt as a Supreme Court Judge to fill the vacancy left in the wake of Justice Lewis J. Smith's demise. The appointment of Justice Vunk gives Suffolk County three representatives in the Second Judicial District, as compared to two from Nassau. In the selection of Vunk, political observers saw the first effects of the distribution of patronage of the failure of Tammany Hall and its allies to support Mr. Roosevelt for the presidential nomination in the Chicago convention. Suffolk County alone among counties in the Second Judicial district remained loyal to the Roosevelt standard.

Questions:

1. Who is John Vunk?
2. According to the article, why was a representative from Suffolk County appointed to the New York State Supreme Court?

Governor Roosevelt's Radio Speech

The New York Times, July 31, 1932

Governor Roosevelt has promised relief for the unemployed in his latest radio speech. Roosevelt said we must save in one place, what we would spend in others, or we must acquire funds through taxation. He said that a government like a family, can spend more than it earns for a year, if it will help the family, but it can not continue, otherwise we will all wind up in the poor house.

While the Republican government believes that relief and help is a local responsibility, the Democrats are keeping an eye on actual human needs. We will use human welfare, especially for the protection of our children. The Democrats would give Federal credit to the States to provide unemployment relief wherever it is needed. The States finances are so diminished that without this help, they can not provide for the needy.

Roosevelt said more jobs could be provided by a reduction in hours or labor. He also encouraged that shorter hours be required for workers each week.

Questions:

1. According to this article, what is the major difference between Democrats and Republicans?
2. How will Governor Roosevelt help the unemployed?
3. Write a letter to the editor of the New York Times explaining your views on Governor Roosevelt's radio address.

Democrats Name C.V. Whitney for Ticket as L.I. Congressman
The Farmingdale Post, August 19, 1932

Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, millionaire sportsman and aviator, will be the Democratic nominee for Congress in the First District. This was announced by Philip N. Krug, Nassau County Democratic leader. Vanderbilt phoned in his acceptance of the nomination from his summer estate in Northern New York.

Mr. Whitney, known as Sonny, has one of the most famous racing stables in the country. His stable is estimated at over \$2,00,000. Mr. Whitney inherited half of his father's estate which in 1930 was valued at \$194,328,154. Mr. Whitney is happily married to his second wife Gladys Crosby Hopkins. Mr. Whitney has a great interest in aviation. He is the director and a member of the Aviation Club at Hicksville.

Questions:

1. What is your reaction to this article about Mr. Whitney?
2. Why do you think the Democrats nominated Whitney?

Work and No Fireworks -- Editorial
The Farmingdale Post, September 23, 1932

Work, services beyond the call of duty, and devotion to the public good when a man is a candidate for office, means that he has less time for advertising himself with speeches, trips, and the usual fireworks of a campaign. Such is the case with President Hoover and Congressman Bacon. Both are workers and unselfish workers. The voters for the most part know this and will respect them the more for attending to the public job during these times.

Questions:

1. What is the main point raised in this editorial?
2. In your opinion, which candidate for President will *The Farmingdale Post* support in the election? Why?

Hoover's Address -- Editorial
The Farmingdale Post, October 7, 1932

All who heard the address delivered at Des Moines by President Hoover on Tuesday night were thrilled by his masterly presentation of the national issues. He not only covered the facts without theory, but he gave a candid exposition of what the country must expect without exaggeration or false hopes. The contrast with the recent Western trip of the Democratic candidate of pretense and promise was obvious. He said, "I come to you with no economic patent medicine especially compounded for farmers. I refuse to offer counterfeit currency of false hopes."

Questions:

1. What is the main point raised in this editorial?
2. In your opinion, is *The Farmingdale Post* giving unbiased coverage to the Presidential campaign? Why do you take this position?

Bacon Sees That Tide Has Turned

The Hempstead Sentinel, October 13, 1932

"The tide has turned, and business is on the road to recovery under the guidance of President Hoover," Congressman Robert L. Bacon told 400 persons in Utowana Hall, Hempstead, Tuesday night at a meeting arranged by the Union Republican Club of Nassau County. The speech of the President at Des Moines last week has cleared up for the country misunderstanding of problems," said Mr. Bacon, and he declared, "this is no time for a change and the election of a Democratic and untried President would only prolong recovery.

Questions:

1. Who does Congressman Bacon support in the Presidential election?
2. According to Congressman Bacon, why should his candidate be elected?
3. In your opinion, why does Congressman Bacon say "the tide has turned"?

Leader States Republican Sentiment Growing Throughout N.Y. State

The Farmingdale Post, October 14, 1932

Republican sentiment is gaining great strength throughout New York State. It is growing strong especially in areas where Democrats have been gaining a majority. This was declared by James L. Dowsey, The Republican leader of North Hempstead, after returning from his upstate summer house where he met with several prominent state Republicans.

"I have talked with scores of Democrats and Republicans over the last few weeks, and they all believe that the Republican ticket will be victorious on a state and national level this November", Dowsey reported.

Dowsey says many Republicans are seeing a trend toward Republican candidates, especially for one who could replace Governor Roosevelt when he retires from public life, December 31. Republicans all over New York State believe that their time has come to lead this country to greatness for many years to come.

Questions:

1. Who is James Dowsey?
2. What does Mr. Dowsey believe will happen in the 1932 election?

Re-election of "Iron Man" Bacon Seen By Friends

The Garden City News, October 19, 1932

Representative Robert L. Bacon of Westbury, seeking re-election in the First Congressional District, embracing Nassau, Suffolk, and a portion of Queens, is well earning his title of "Iron Man" of Republican national, state, and county activities through the vigorous campaign he is waging for re-election....During the first three weeks of the campaign, Mr. Bacon has spoken at sixty-two meetings attended by approximately 20,000 voters. "I never felt better in my life," Mr. Bacon said, "nor did I ever feel surer of Republican success."

Question: In your opinion, what does strong support for Republican Congressman Bacon suggest about the direction Long island will take in the Presidential election? Why?

Republican Rally in Farmingdale

The Farmingdale Post, October 21, 1932

On Thursday evening, November third, a big Republican rally will be held in Farmingdale at St. Thomas' Parish Hall. Residents, no matter what their political affiliations may be, will be welcome to attend and hear the candidates speak. Many prominent Republicans are expected including Congressman Bacon and nominees C. Walter Randall and Harry Hedger. A motor caravan parade through the main streets of Farmingdale will precede the speeches. Hicksville and other towns are planing rallies as well.

Question: Why are big Republican rallies being held in Farmingdale and Hicksville?

Ford Urges Election of Hoover - Editorial
The Farmingdale Post, October 21, 1932

Bulletin Boards of the Ford Motor Company and at the executive offices at Dearborn displayed the following notice this week.

"The Ford Motor Company is not interested in partisan politics. We do not seek to control any man's vote. We feel, however, that the coming election is so important to industry and employment that our employees should know our views. President Hoover has overcome the forces that almost destroyed industry and employment. His efforts to start the country back to work are beginning to show results. We are convinced that any break in the program would hurt industry and employment. To prevent times from getting worse and to help them get better President Hoover must be elected."

Questions:

1. According to this editorial, who is endorsing President Hoover's reelection campaign?
2. Why are they supporting Hoover?
3. In your opinion, why is *The Farmingdale Post* printing this endorsement?

The Coming Election - Editorial
The Hempstead Sentinel, November 3, 1932

It is not surprising that registration is extraordinarily heavy in Nassau County, or that it is far in excess of the 1931 registration, and that it exceeds by a large volume the 1928 Presidential registration.

Eight years ago in the Coolidge-Davis Presidential election, the Republican nominee polled approximately 45,000 votes and the Democratic nominee approximately 14,000 in the County.

Four years later in the Hoover-Smith race, Hoover polled 71,000 and Smith 40,000.

The national situation is somewhat different this year, and there is a considerable cross current of opinion, that may mean a cut in the Republican vote, nationally. It seems beyond the realm of probabilities that Nassau County, normally heavily Republican is going to make a complete reversal of its voting strength.

Questions:

1. What is happening as election day approaches?
2. What has happened in Nassau County in recent Presidential elections?
3. What does *The Hempstead Sentinel* believe will happen in this election?

Hoover-Donovan-Davison-Bacon

Banner headline, *The Farmingdale Post*, November 4, 1932

Question: In your opinion, why is *The Farmingdale Post* running a banner headlining listing the Republican candidates for national, state, and local offices?

Nassau County Holds To Republican Front In Terrific Upheaval
The Hempstead Sentinel, November 10, 1932

Nassau County continues in the Republican column despite the record breaking political upheaval that swept the nation Tuesday. Faced with an unprecedented Democratic drift, Nassau County not only gave Hoover a lead in the County of 18,849 but returned to office, Congressman Robert L. Bacon and Assemblyman Edwin W. Wallace by almost the same majorities they received in the election of 1930. The Republican forces carried for Hoover the three Townships of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay, but lost the Cities of Long Beach and Glen Cove.

Questions:

1. How did Nassau County vote in the Presidential election?
2. In your opinion, why did Nassau voters go against the national trend?

Roosevelt Pledges Recovery First, Says His Victory 'Transcends' Party Lines

The New York Times, November 10, 1932

Governor, now President-elect, Roosevelt spoke at Hyde Park to reporters saying that his election was a victory for liberal thought in the country. He pledged to assume leadership in a fight to lift a nation from the economic depression. With a win in 42 states, the President-elect said he was hopeful that he could rebuild the nation's economic forces in a rapid style.

Roosevelt also said that his semi-landslide win transcended party lines. He said that his election shows that the American people firmly believe, "that there is great and actual possibility in an orderly recovery, through a well-conceived and actively directed plan of action." Roosevelt said he was happy to see unbounded confidence in the nation for the future of sound agriculture and honorable industry.

Questions:

1. What does Roosevelt believe his election is a victory for liberal thought in the country?
2. Why does Roosevelt feel he has a mandate for action?
3. Do you agree with Roosevelt that an orderly recovery from the depression is possible? Explain.

Nassau County Stands Steady While Nation Chooses New Deal

The Farmingdale Post, November 11, 1932

Nassau County remained the banner of a Republican stronghold while the rest of New York and the nation elected Franklin D. Roosevelt as president in a Democratic landslide, over incumbent President Herbert C. Hoover. Roosevelt lost in Nassau County by thousands of votes, but won Suffolk County handily.

While all local Republicans won their elections here including Robert L. Bacon over Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, the Democrats now control the State Senate by one person. This will be in effect for the next two years.

Questions:

1. How did the Republican Party do in Nassau County in 1932?
2. In your opinion, why did Nassau County voters defy the national trend?

Wallace Blames State's Plight On Roosevelt Regime

The Farmingdale Post, February 24, 1933

Assemblyman and Nassau County Republican leader, Edwin W. Wallace has called President-elect Roosevelt, from the point of view on taxation and the economy, "The worst Governor New York State ever had." Mr. Wallace made this charge after others claimed that local government had extravagant spending problems. Wallace said that Roosevelt's own financial policy was responsible for a state deficit of over \$1,000,000,000.

Wallace said that with Lehman as Governor these problems will be non-existent and praised Lehman for his budget cuts. Wallace said we should all be thankful that we now have a Governor who will put the people first instead of trying to make money for his own personal gain.

Questions:

1. Why does Assemblyman Wallace criticize Franklin Roosevelt?
2. In your opinion, why is Wallace attacking the new President?

1933

On March 4, Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated as President. On March 5 he declared a four day "bank holiday." A special session of Congress began on March 9. During the next 100 days it passed laws establishing many of the New Deal programs. On March 12, President Roosevelt broadcasts over radio his first fireside chat. On August 1, the "Blue Eagle" is formally introduced as the symbol of the National Recovery Administration and the campaign to end the Great Depression.

Assisting Families Who Won't Ask Help Is Local Committees Biggest Problem

The Hempstead Sentinel, January 26, 1933

One of the biggest problems that confronts the Mayor's Unemployment Committee is in assisting families who will not ask for help, not those who are in actual want. At least 383 people of the "white collar class", did not register in the Unemployment Census, or apply to the Welfare Board. They have been "uncovered" due to the persistent work of the Mayor's committee. Many seem to have been held back by pride or other motives. Chairman William L. Powers stated, "We are doing all we can to assist these families and have done so on the promise they will pay us back when they get on their feet".

A clothing store has been opened from which reconditioned clothing will be distributed. A new project called a "soup kitchen", will open in February. The committee also reports that 212 men are working three days a week on work reform projects and 40 are on a six day schedule. Additional funds are needed to assist in carrying on the committee's work.

Questions:

1. What group of workers did not register in the local unemployment census? Why?
2. What projects have been organized to help the unemployed?
3. If you were unemployed, would you seek help? Explain your views.

Garden City's Part in the N.R.A. Program

The Garden City News, March 5, 1933

The N.R.A. is designed to put five million men back on payrolls in a short time. When this is done 20,000,000 people will suddenly be placed in pollution to buy the normal necessities of life. That means that the total trade volume of the nation will, upon the complete acceptance of this plan, be lifted by from 10 to 20 percent. Garden City will have a definite share in this increased prosperity to the extent that it participates in the plan. So there is a responsibility on every citizen here to cooperate to the utmost to make this gigantic national plan complete success. Every employer and every consumer has a definite responsibility to assume.

Questions:

- 1- What is meant by the normal necessities of life?
- 2- What is the N.R.A.?
- 3- Why is it important for people to participate?

13,578 Employed on Work Relief Projects
The Hempstead Sentinel, April 20, 1933

"Just how much good is the Work Relief employment doing in Nassau County?" is a question that has been raised frequently of late. There is no way to estimate the actual number of Nassau County's unemployed as many families still have something left over from better days. Nevertheless, 22,000 families have asked for work relief. The Nassau County Emergency Work Bureau was established in November, 1931, and during its first winter gave employment to as many as 4,762 families. During the present winter there has been a steady increase in the number of applications for work relief due both the cessation of seasonal employment and the exhaustion of savings and credit. During the first week of this month the Bureau gave employment to a total of 13,578 families, which will undoubtedly be the largest number employed this year.

Question: Write a letter to President Roosevelt explaining why unemployment is a major problem in Nassau County.

Recovery Bill To Aid Island's Major Plans, Lions Hear
The Hempstead Sentinel, June 15, 1933

The passage of the National Recovery Bill by the United State Senate means that Long Island will get some major projects completed. Among the projects to be helped are the extension of the Southern State Parkway to Babylon, continuation of the Sunrise Highway in Suffolk County, and extension of the Northern State Parkway. Secretary of the Lions Club, Benjamin Van Scharck, also mentioned the importance of the Triboro Bridge Project to Long Island, and also the Grand Central Project as well. He also predicted that a new highway will be built over Sunrise Highway to Brooklyn. Van Scharck said, "Business men of Long Island will benefit from all of this Federal money just as much as you make yourselves felt". He wanted to make sure that the Lions Club realized how much their help is needed in obtaining materials not included in the labor contracts.

Questions:

1. Which Long Island projects are being funded by the National Recovery Bill?
2. In your opinion, how will these projects change Long Island?

Meeting Today To Plan Campaign In Interests Of NRA
The Hempstead Sentinel, August 31, 1933

Members of the Hempstead NRA are holding a meeting today as they plan an active campaign to enlist every employer in Hempstead in the President's Re-employment Agreement. They also want consumers to support Blue Eagle Merchants only. They plan for the Blue Eagle message to be carried on a block to block canvas and into every home.

Questions:

1. What is the Blue Eagle?
2. Why does the Hempstead NRA want consumers to support Blue Eagle merchants?

Depositors For Plan Of Clearing House To Reorganize Old Bank
The Hempstead Sentinel, September 7, 1933

Plans for the reorganization of the First National Bank of Hempstead, closed since the bank moratorium of last March, moved forward last night when 1,200 people jammed in the High School auditorium gave verbal approval to the "waiver plan," presented by Judge Leone D. Howell and William F. Ploch of the Nassau County Clearing House Association. The Clearing House Association is composed of 55 banks in the county. It has no ulterior motive in presenting a plan of reorganization, that is wholly in the interests of depositors and which we firmly believe will yield the largest return to depositors.

"You depositors must get yourselves out of this situation, said Judge Howell, and there is no possible chance of your getting 100 cents on the dollar. The meeting was mainly to learn the sentiment of depositors towards the reorganization plan and whether they wished the Clearing House to go forward in plans for the reorganization.

Questions:

1. Why is the First National Bank of Hempstead being reorganized?
2. Who is proposing the reorganization plan?
3. What will happen to money that was deposited in the bank?
4. In your opinion, do depositors really have a choice? Why?

NRA BUY NOW!

The Hempstead Sentinel, September 7, 1933

If the NRA is to be a success, we must all do our part and not just paste the "Blue Eagle" slogan on our windows without further effort. The manufacturers and merchants, are doing their part. The various industries have formulated their codes or are doing so. The stores are displaying the "Blue Eagle." More people are being employed. The Government has called upon industries and merchants to do their part. The final goal of the activity is the consumer. Goods must be moved from the warehouses and shelves. If you can afford to spend at all, do not delay. By spending you will be doing your part. Buy Now!

Questions:

1. What is the Blue Eagle?
2. How are manufacturers and merchants doing their part?
3. How are consumers supposed to support the campaign?
4. In your opinion, how is this campaign supposed to help to solve the depression?

Nassau County Is Leading In NRA's Chairman's Support

The Hempstead Sentinel, September 14, 1933

Nassau County is one of the leading counties in New York State for NRA support. They lead the state in the number of communities organized, number of businesses coded, and the number of consumer pledges filled out by buyers. Although no community has completed its consumer drives, pledges have been signed one hundred percent of the business men in eight communities. They were Farmingdale, Hempstead, Long Beach, Oceanside, West Hempstead, Woodmere-Hewlett, and Roosevelt.

Questions:

1. What eight towns have signed one hundred percent of the businessmen?
2. In your opinion, why is Nassau County a leader in NRA support?

NRA Mass Meeting Wednesday Night At Fair Grounds
The Hempstead Sentinel, September 21, 1933

A county-wide mass meeting under the auspices of the County NRA organization, will be held at the Mineola Fair Grounds on Wednesday evening, September 27. The object of the meeting and the series of parades that will be held in villages and communities earlier in the evening will be to celebrate the successful conclusion of the "Buy Now" drive which will start in the county on Thursday, September 28th. Nassau county is the banner county of the entire nation in respect to the procession of Blue Eagles in ratio to population. It is estimated that by the date set for the mass meeting that the county will be signed up 100 per cent under the wings of President Roosevelt's emblem.

Questions:

1. Why was Nassau considered the banner county of the entire nation?
2. In your opinion, why were parades organized to celebrate the conclusion of the drive for consumer and employer support for the NRA?

Many To Walk In NRA Hempstead Big Parade Next Wednesday Night
The Hempstead Sentinel, September 28, 1933

A huge demonstration is planned for Wednesday night to show that Hempstead supports the National Recovery Act. In the demonstration, there will be a parade, a motorcade, and marchers on foot. Many merchants will have floats, including the Franklin Shops, and Good Humor Ice Cream will send their trucks as well. The parade will start on Greenwich Street at 7:15 p.m., and end on Fulton Avenue after it passes the business district. Police, National Guard, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled War Veterans, and Spanish-American War Veterans will also take part among other groups. Students will be marching, including those in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

Questions:

1. Which groups are participating in the parade?
2. In your opinion, why are so many people expected to participate in the parade?

Remember Women In The "New Deal" Democrats Hear
The Hempstead Sentinel, November 2, 1933

Mrs. Caroline O'Day, National Committee Woman of New York State, told 225 Democrats at a dinner at the Garden City Hotel, that women are being remembered in the "New Deal". O'Day was speaking on behalf of the Post Master General of the United States, James A. Farley. Farley was in Washington on official business. O'Day noted that since Farley had become Post Master General, 4,000 post office jobs have gone to women. "The women will not be forgotten and although several ace cards have already been dealt, there are still a few left in the pack", O'Day said. Mrs. O'Day also urged Democrats to support the NRA and for women to only shop in stores that display the Blue Eagle.

Questions:

1. According to Ms. O'Day, how are women being helped by the New Deal?
2. In your opinion, should women have the same right to work relief as men? Why or why not?

1,300 Men Placed By Reemployment Service

The Hempstead Sentinel, November 23, 1933

The Nassau County Reemployment Service that maintains one of its four offices in Hempstead in the Hempstead Bank building, has placed twenty percent of its registered workers in jobs, E. Warren Carpenter, Director of the service told members of the Hempstead Association of Commerce Monday.

"Between 6,200 and 6,300 men have registered for the service in the county," Mr. Carpenter said. "Of this number, 1,300 have been placed at work since the bureau formally got under way September 1, and we actually are bettering the hoped for quota of 73 a week," he added.

Questions:

1. Out of 6,300 men that are registered to work, 1,300 were placed. In your opinion, is this a successful program? Why or why not?
2. Women are not mentioned. Do you think they should have an opportunity for these jobs? Why or why not?

East Hempstead Relief Workers Report Activity

The Hempstead Sentinel, December 21, 1933

The Red Cross and Unemployment Relief have answered the questions of many in Nassau County on what they have done for many impoverished families in the county. Between September, 1931 and December 1, 1933, four hundred fifty one families received many types of clothing, including underwear, socks and shirts. The East Hempstead Relief bought yards of material and made clothes for these families as well. Second hand clothing was also donated along with blankets. 3500 bags of flour, each weighing 25 pounds were also given to the families.

Teacher Mrs. Eva Ellis notes, "There is still a crying need for more clothing", and also said, "people of this section have responded nobly and unselfishly with many donations in the past, it is to be hoped that they will again go through their attics, storage closets, and cellars".

Questions:

1. Who is helping the needy families in Nassau County?
2. How are they helping poor families?
3. Would you have supported the drive to help poor families? Why or why not?

Great Neck News, May 17, 1935

... for a sick kitchen

A "NEW DEAL" on Gas Ranges

Liberal Trade-In Allowance Offer

*You may purchase with a small down payment,
balance in monthly installments.*

**Long Island Lighting Company
Nassau County Division, Garden City**

1934

Congress continues to pass New Deal legislation. In San Francisco, a strike by the Longshoremen expands into the first "general strike" in United States history. It leads to a wave of strikes across the United States.

Depression Seen As Beneficial To American People

The Hempstead Sentinel, January 25, 1934

Rabbi Harry E. Schwartz, of Temple Beth Israel, spoke to the Lions Club yesterday and said that not all of the effects of the Great Depression were evil. Schwartz said, "The crisis through which we have passed has taught all thinking people that a man's true worth is not to be measured by material possessions or his bank account, but by the social energy and service he gives off by his exertions".

Schwartz said that the sufferings we have gone through have brought us closer together and shown that man is inherently unselfish. The Rabbi also noted that the passed ten or eleven months have brought positive change and that the New Deal has "revived hope and optimism for the future". He advised against too rapid change, as the Depression should teach us a lesson.

Schwartz also told how adversity has helped bring out the best in men that was bottled up before. He said that many predicted that before the Great Depression, the American Family was doomed, but the lack of money has welded families together again.

Questions:

1. According to Rabbi Schwartz, how has the depression helped the American people?
2. Do you agree or disagree with Rabbi Schwartz? Why?

School District Preparing Application For R.F.C. Loan

The Hempstead Sentinel, February 8, 1934

Formal application for a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for funds to finance the proposed school expansion program is being prepared for the Board of Education. The request of the R.F.C. will be for \$400,000 said Dr. Gore. It is estimated the proposed improvements to the school system, including additions to buildings and the acquisition of additional property, will cost in the neighborhood of that amount. Under the terms by which the R.F.C. loaned money to municipalities, the district will issue bonds to the government in the event the application is granted. However, the corporation allots 30 per cent of the total amount to the municipality as a premium. This in effect, will be a gift of 30 per cent of the loan to the district. In the case of \$400,000 it will amount to \$120,000.

Questions:

1. How will the Reconstruction Finance Corporation help Hempstead?
2. In your opinion, how will this money have a broader impact on Long Island?

Long Beach To Ask State Aid In Crisis
The New York Times, February 11, 1934

Due to \$1,700,000 in floating debt, Long Beach Mayor Charles Gold has arranged to speak to New York Governor Lehman and State Controller Tremaine to discuss how this problem can be solved. The Mayor has said that immediate action needs to be taken to finance the debt. Gold said he told the Governor, "that it is impossible for this city to meet its funded obligations, pay interest and principal on floating debt, and at the same time maintain current operations...our city is going to appeal to the state for aid." Gold is determined not to "further enmesh" taxpayers in order to lessen this debt.

Questions:

1. What problem is facing Long Beach?
2. How does the city plan to solve the problem?
3. Why does Mayor Gold say he does not want to further enmesh taxpayers?
4. In your opinion, should New York State pay the debts of Long Beach? Why or why not?

Nassau County Sanatorium An Outstanding Work Relief Project
The Garden City News, February 12, 1934

The Nassau county sanitarium's 184-acre tract near Farmingdale is a striking example of what is being accomplished throughout the county by means of emergency work relief labor. A year ago last winter the larger part of the sanitarium grounds was a dense growth of scrub oak, bramble and underbrush which extended almost up to the buildings, much of it so dense one could not see twenty feet in any direction. Today there is nothing to even suggest that such a condition ever existed.

Questions:

- 1- What is a Sanitarium?
- 2- Why is this considered an outstanding relief project?

Change Name Of Work Relief Organization For Third Time
The Hempstead Sentinel, March 29, 1934

The work relief organization in Nassau County will assume a new name for the third time in as many years, on Monday. This time it will be, The Works Division of the T.E.R.A. The initials stand for the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration.

As far as officials could learn there is no let up in the demand for relief in Nassau County. From 12,000 to 15,000 people are registered as Class A qualified to get work from the relief bureau. About 8,000 were carried on the public welfare department lists this month and no decided change is anticipated during April.

Questions:

1. What is the T.E.R.A.?
2. Are conditions improving for the unemployed in Nassau County? What evidence do you have to support your position?

To Finish New Causeway 6 Months Ahead of Schedule

Nassau Daily Review, April 12, 1934

Work on the new \$5,000,000 Meadowbrook causeway project at Jones Beach is expected to be completed by October, more than six months ahead of the original schedule, Benjamin L. Van Schaick, executive secretary of the Long Island State Park Commission informed newspapermen yesterday. Despite one of the severest winters in the memory of the oldest inhabitants, he said, work on the tremendous project has gone doggedly forward ever since it was first undertaken last summer. Seventeen hundred piles for instance, have been driven already on the sites of the six bridges that will carry traffic from one island stepping stone to the next and only 200 more are left to be set in place. Mr. Van Schaick called attention to the hundreds of men at work along the old causeway and to the improvements that have been made on the right of way. With the completion of the Meadowbrook causeway, Jones Beach is now accessible from two points on the mainland and from the easterly end of Long Beach.

Questions:

1. Why are people surprised the Jones Beach project is ahead of schedule?
2. How is Long Island benefiting from this project?

Bank Deposits Rise Nearly Million During Past Year

The Hempstead Sentinel, July 12, 1934

The three banks in Hempstead have had increases of nearly a million dollars in deposits in the past year. This is hailed by many as an indication of improved business conditions. The increase since last year at this time, in the three banks, was \$935,763. Although one other bank, The First National Bank, was passed into a Receiver's hand, this did not change the upbeat outlook as the bank was not functioning a year ago. Financiers see these increased deposits as a sign of returning confidence as well as a renewed activity in buying.

Questions:

1. Why is the increase in bank deposits considered important?
2. In your opinion, what does this say about the public's response to the New Deal? Explain.

Hempstead Group Moves To Promote Program Under The National Housing Act

The Hempstead Sentinel, August 30, 1934

Plans for local publicity of the National Housing Act were enthusiastically discussed at a meeting of business men representing the building and kindred lines. The meeting was called by John Hilliard, chairman of the Ways and Means committee of the Hempstead Association of Commerce. Chairman Hilliard said in part:

"Of all the Government's programs to stimulate business, The National Housing Act is the one plan that can most benefit our community as building is the principal industry in local territory. Every business in Hempstead should feel the increased stimulation, for an improvement of property indirectly benefits the whole community by employing men and creating a demand for materials... It is up to us to make the most of this opportunity to relieve unemployment and have our community enjoy a full measure of prosperity. The Government has done its part, the banks and other financial institutions in our community are ready to do theirs. Every business concern is anxious to put men to work.

Questions:

1. Who sponsored the meeting on the new National Housing Act?
2. Why does Chairman Hilliard support this act?
3. What is his attitude on Government efforts to end the depression?
4. Do you support Government action to support the economy? Why or why not?

To Resume Work and Home Relief Within A Few Days

The Hempstead Sentinel, September 6, 1934

Work and home relief will be resumed on a scale believed to be sufficient enough to meet all the reasonable and legitimate needs of the unfortunate in Nassau County. Relief was temporarily suspended after a mandated federal "holiday". Under the plan, about \$600,000 a month will be available in Nassau County. The county will contribute \$125,000, the State's share will be \$475,000. The money will be used to pay for the daily employment of men, rent for indigent tenants, and necessary clothing such as shoes for children about to begin school in the fall.

Questions:

1. What is the goal of work and home relief programs?
2. What do people receive from these programs?

"Putting Up With It" Days Gone With New Housing Act Advantages

The Hempstead Sentinel, September 20, 1934

The outworn habit of "putting up with what we have" should disappear under the new housing plan. Women are ever so weary of looking at the old front porch, wishing for a new one, sighing and saying, "We'll just have to put up with it." Those dreary "putting up with it" days may be discarded to the everlasting joy of the whole family. A variety of things can be done to both the exterior and the interior of the house under the flexible provisions of the repairing and reconditioning section of the National Housing Act. Borrowing money for home repairs is a comparatively new idea for American homeowners. Under the new government plan it is practical to do this and economical to borrow enough money to make all needed improvements and repairs.

Questions:

1. What is the author suggesting homeowners do? Why?
2. Do you think it is a good idea to borrow money for homes when jobs are scarce? Why?

Activities Report Made Public By The Emergency Work Bureau of County

The Hempstead Sentinel, December 6, 1934

The Nassau County Emergency Work Bureau has just issued its final report describing its activities from the time of its previous report. According to the report, there was no appreciable decrease in unemployment distress in those families in which there was either no income at all or too little to meet the minimum needs of the family. The NCEWB was unable to provide sufficient money (i.e. jobs) to care for all of the families in this category. Many families had to be referred to the home relief authorities for aid. The Bureau employs people to clear, grade, and landscape local and state parks. Roads have been widened, repaired, and resurfaced. The Bureau also provides an Adult Education program for recent high school graduates. The report clearly shows the continuing problems with unemployment, as well as the possibilities that exist to reduce the problem. Taxpayers should be assured that their money is being used to the best advantage.

Questions

1. What is the main finding of the NCEWB report?
2. In your opinion, why is the Bureau having such a difficult time finding employment for the unemployed of Nassau County?

Relief Board To Discuss Future Policy in County

The Hempstead Sentinel, December 20, 1934

The Nassau County Relief Bureau will discuss tonight further extension of the dole system and retrenchment in work relief. Presently, the policy is to give as much work relief as possible. The proposed policy is to spread the money further by giving as much home relief as possible, confining the work relief to a limited number of projects. Some argue that the new policy will make it possible to spread the available funds among a greater number of individuals.

Questions

1. What is the proposed change and how will it benefit people?
2. Do you agree with the proposed change? Why or why not?

1935

In the State of the Union address, President Roosevelt begins the second New Deal and promises to provide jobs for the unemployed. The Works Progress Administration begins in May. On May 27, the Supreme Court hands the New Deal a major setback when it declares the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 unconstitutional. In August, President Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act, providing old-age pensions, financial assistance to dependent children, and unemployment insurance.

Mayor's Committee Seeks Funds For Welfare Work *The Hempstead Sentinel*, January 3, 1935

Funds for emergency relief cases for the Mayor's Fund Committee of Hempstead are swinging into their final drive to raise \$500, it was announced by James V. Dowler of the committee. "This money is used to assist people who are not receiving relief from the Town or County and if the citizens of Hempstead will support this drive by making a personal sacrifice, the committee feels sure the amount will be raised."

Questions:

1. Why is the Mayor of Hempstead raising money for private charities?
2. Do you believe unemployment relief is the responsibility of private charities or the government? Explain your views.

Relief Workers Not Handicapped When Losing Private Work Jobs *The Hempstead Sentinel*, February 7, 1935

Relief workers who attempt to better their positions by accepting private jobs will not be handicapped in obtaining re-employment on relief projects if they find it necessary to return.

"Relief workers should be encouraged to try to get work with private concerns," said Raymond W. Houston, Acting Executive Director of the Nassau County Emergency Relief Bureau, "one way we can offer assistance is by the assurances that we will find another job for them on the relief rolls if their new venture fails to last for any length of time."

Questions

1. Why does Mr. Houston encourage workers to accept better jobs if available?
2. What assurances does he offer?
3. What would you do if you were a WPA worker and you were offered a better job?

Sewers For Country Club Park Section Authorized For Spring Construction *The Hempstead Sentinel*, February 21, 1935

A sewer improvement program to extend the system to streets in the Country Club Park area will be launched by the village board immediately, following adoption of resolutions Tuesday night to borrow \$30,000 and apply to the temporary emergency relief administration for labor to carry on the work. By utilizing unemployed men supplied by the Nassau county relief bureau, the administration believes it can complete the project for less than half the original cost.

Questions:

1. What is Hempstead's plan for building new sewers?
2. In your opinion, is this a good use of unemployed relief? Why?

Police Chief Denies Any Wrong Doing In Relief Indictment

The Hempstead Sentinel, March 28, 1935

Denial of any wrong doing was made by Police Chief Phineas A. Seaman who this week was indicted, arraigned and released on \$2,500 ball on a charge that he caused to be made a fraudulent and false statement in obtaining relief. It is charged that the Chief accompanied Mrs. Hope, who is the mother of an eight year old son, to the Nassau County Relief Bureau Headquarters and made a request for relief in her behalf and that as a result she was given orders for rent and groceries.

Questions:

1. Why is an investigation being conducted?
2. Do believe that Police Chief Seaman acted incorrectly? Why or why not?

Nassau Hospital's Free Service Last Year Was \$85,000

The Hempstead Sentinel, April 25, 1935

Nassau Hospital at Mineola, in the past year gave free hospital service amounting to \$85,000, an increase of \$8,000 over the previous year. In addition the "less than cost service" given amounted to \$79,000. The President's report shows the following statistics concerning the hospital during the year: 738 babies were born in the hospital; 4,444 patients were treated in the emergency rooms; 3,507 patients were examined and treated in the Dental Department; 37,168 laboratory examinations were made; 208 was the maximum number of patients cared for in one day; and 165 was the daily average number of patients.

Questions:

1. What was the cost of free hospital service at the Nassau Hospital at Mineola in 1934?
2. What was the cost of "less than cost" service in 1934?
3. How many babies were born in the hospital in 1934?
4. What was the average number of patients each day?
5. Why do you think the hospital was providing so much free service?
6. How does the United States handle this problem today?

Launch Housing Survey With Modernization And Repair Goal Of \$250,000

The Hempstead Sentinel, July 18, 1935

Inspired by the success of two housing shows in Hempstead and it's carefree cottage program, the Better Housing Committee... said that the ultimate effort of the two shows and the cottage project had been to interest people in home building, repair and modernization program. "We are confident that through an intensive campaign we can put many building trades workers now on relief rolls back to gainful pursuits and make wages that will be spent right in our own community."

"There is a lot of repair and modernization work that can be done in Hempstead...It may mean a new roof for the house, the adding of a porch, the making over of the bathroom, repainting, new heating equipment, a new garage, or installing household equipment. The program has a wide enough latitude to take into account anything that is needed for the home."

Questions:

1. How much money is being provided for the home repair program?
2. How is the housing repair program also an unemployment relief program?

Long Beach To Get \$1,730,500 PWA Fund
The New York Times, August 24, 1935

PWA authorities have granted Long Beach's Mayor Gold \$1,730,500 to build a new boardwalk and jetty system. The boardwalk will be two miles long and forty feet wide and will run from New York Avenue to Neptune Boulevard. Fifteen stone jetties will replace the wooden ones.

This grant ends court fights that started in February 1934 when Gold previously ask for State aid when he first became Mayor. The city's legal borrowing capacity had been overdrawn in 1933. PWA authorities at the time told Mayor Gold that, "even if the loan were granted, the city could not accept it."

Questions:

1. How will the PWA funds be used?
2. Why did Long Beach have to go to court to get the money?

Squatters House Boats Charged With Mucking Up Manhasset Bay
Port Washington News, October 4, 1935

The pollution problem is not new in Port Washington. In 1933 Port Washington harbor was full of so-called squatters living in houseboats, and the Port Washington Town Board finally decided to take action. The last chapter in the story of the so called squatters was written in April of that year when Sheriff David Dows, armed with a county eviction order, signed by county judge Cortland Johnson, employed Capt. Harry Stubbs and his tug boat crew to tow away the houseboats which, at low tide, were beached on town property. It was no easy task to dislodge these shacks and it took considerable work. Who would pay for the tug hire and the anchors used in the work was the question which bothered Sheriff Dows at the time. Some held that the squatters should pay. Others claimed it was a town or county obligation.

Questions:

1. What are squatters?
2. Why do you think the citizens of Port Washington wanted to get rid of the squatters?
3. How would you fee if you were one of the squatters being evicted? Why?

Professor Spahr Scores New Deal
The Hempstead Sentinel, October 17, 1935

"A period of inflation such as this country has never known will sweep over our land with the passing of the Soldiers' Bonus Bill, to be introduced at the January Congress," stated Professor Walter Spahr. He spoke Tuesday night at the weekly public forum series in the Hempstead High School Auditorium. The series is sponsored by Nassau College and New York University's division of General Education.

The speaker listed the significant political issues of the present administration with which the people are now faced, and strongly denounced the administration for having adopted most of the socialists' program; for its orgy of borrowing and spending, and spoke at length on the need of sound currency, the maintenance of the Constitution and the Supreme Court.

Questions:

1. Why does Professor Spahr oppose the Soldier's Bonus Bill?
2. In your opinion, does Professor Spahr support or oppose the New Deal? What evidence supports your position?
3. If you were a voter in 1935, would you have supported Professor Spahr if he ran for public office? Why or why not?

Great Neck, Manhasset To Receive WPA Funds

Great Neck Record, November 26, 1935

Great Neck heads the list of North Shore communities that will obtain money from the Works Progress Administration, it was announced today by Comptroller General McCord. Great Neck is slated to receive \$23,161 of which \$11,631 will be used for the improvement of school buildings. Manhasset's request for an appropriation of \$99,699 for the improvement of school buildings has been approved.

Question: Why did Great Neck and Manhasset receive WPA money?

W.P.A. Classes To Start Here

Great Neck Record, December 6, 1935

An announcement was made this week of the opening on December 10 in Great Neck of some of the class series conducted under the auspices of the WPA and the State Department of Education. The classes will be conducted at the Arrandale School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:20 p.m. The commercial art class will be under the direction of Devah Spear, who also will continue with her classes at the studio about the Woolworth store on Middle Neck Road. English to foreign-born will be taught side by side by Mrs. A.N. Seymore of Glen Cove. Max Figman will have charge of the drama classes and Mrs. Lillian Chambers will direct the sewing project. It is expected that other classes will start soon.

Questions:

1. What kind of classes are being offered?
2. How will Great Neck be able to offer these classes?
3. Do you think this is an important project? Why or why not?

Realtors Urge PWA Loan For River Tunnel

Great Neck Record, December 27, 1935

Ira T. McKnight president of the Great Neck Real Estate Board urged all residents of the community to write to President Roosevelt asking him to approve a PWA loan for the completion of the East River tunnel in time for the World's Fair. The same appeal was made by Edgar Storms, Jr., Great Neck broker, and other members of the Board.

It was pointed out both by Mr. McKnight and Mr. Storms that the completion of the tunnel is "essential" if the Fair is to be held in Flushing. "The Fair cannot succeed unless the tunnel is completed," said Mr. McKnight. "Transportation facilities will have to be increased. Queensborough Bridge is taxed to its utmost capacity as it is. As a matter of fact we need the tunnel. Fair or no Fair."

Questions:

1. What does the Great Neck Real Estate Board want the federal government to do?
2. In your opinion, why does the real estate board want the government to build this project?

1936

In June, the Republicans nominate Kansas Governor Alf Landon for President. Landon opposes the New Deal and is endorsed by 80% of American newspapers. In November, Roosevelt overwhelmingly defeats Landon in a landslide.

County Orders Sidewalks As "Safety" Plan

Great Neck Record, May 8, 1936

Nassau County's bid for highway safety with concrete sidewalks along 200 miles of state highways and county roads involves the most extensive program of its kind yet undertaken in New York State, it was revealed today. Numerous deaths and injuries to persons walking on the paved road furnished the incentive for Nassau County officials to make highway footpath building a major part of the work-relief program. The sidewalk project was undertaken last fall on a W.P.A. allotment and furnished work through the winter in grading for the walks. Concreting has been started at 13 locations and will furnish employment for about 700 W.P.A. workers.

Questions:

1. What does Nassau County plan to build?
2. Why is Nassau County proposing this plan?
3. How does the WPA make this plan possible?

Seek WPA Link With Gaming Racket

Long Island Sun, August 28, 1936

Suspension of a WPA timekeeper followed disclosures this week that a deeply rooted ring of racketeers is in control of the money wheel concessions at street carnivals sponsored by legitimate groups, chiefly church and fireman bodies. Works Progress Administrator Harold P.C. Howe acted after he had been apprised of the situation by Chief Assistant District Attorney Lindsay R. Henry who is eager to have a further interview with Howe in an effort to stamp out the racket.

Examination of the wheels and gambling equipment seized at the Copiague raid showed they were crooked. At least two of the wheels were equipped with brakes that would stop them at any number the operator desired. Radios that were offered as prizes in another instance turned out to be mere shells. Thorough questioning of the prisoners, Henry said, led him to believe that the racket might be widespread among WPA workers, and for that reasons he communicated with Administrator Howe at the Northport office.

Questions:

1. Why was the WPA timekeeper arrested?
2. In your opinion, why is the WPA being investigated?
3. In your opinion, is this a reason to close the WPA down? Why or why not?

Employment Gains In Suffolk County WPA Office Finds

Long Island Sun, September 4, 1936

In the six months ended August 1, 1646 persons on Suffolk County relief rolls left relief for regular employment. With those who left relief through securing other means of support, and the families and unattached persons who, becoming destitute, had to be added to the rolls in the same months, the relief turnover resulted in a net reduction of 1,610 or 55%.

Questions:

1. What happened to the rate of unemployment in Suffolk County in the first 6 months of 1936?
2. In your opinion, what does this signal for the future? Why?

WPA Expenditures In Suffolk Passes One Million Mark

Long Island Sun, September 4, 1936

A total of \$1,220,646.29 has been spent in Suffolk County by the Works Progress Administration since its inception and an additional \$693,933.23 has been contributed by the various towns, villages and tax supported institutions, according to a summary of work relief activities made public by Harold P.C. Howe, Nassau-Suffolk director. The report shows that 74 projects submitted by local authorities have been approved and 35 of these projects are now in operation. A total of 2,600 persons taken from the county's relief rolls are now employed on the projects and during January, 3,992 employees were engaged in work. A partial list of the completed projects includes a new highway machinery storehouse in Coram, concrete walks, pavement, and curbs on the grounds of Port Jefferson High School, repairs of Central Islip and Kings Park State Hospitals, and an outstanding drainage project in the Patchogue School District.

Questions:

1. Why do you think other institutions supplemented the WPA money given to Long Island?
2. What kind of projects did the WPA support?
3. In your opinion, how did Suffolk County benefit from the WPA?

WPA Worker's Suspension Lifted Early This Week

Long Island Sun, September 4, 1936

Solomon Feinman, 34, of West Ave. Bay Shore, who was suspended by the WPA as a timekeeper on a Bay Shore curb and gutter construction job because his name was mixed up with a group of persons arrested for maintaining gambling devices at a street carnival in Copiague, is back on the job. The suspension order was lifted early this week.

Feinman's suspension came when Assistant District Attorney Lindsay R. Henry promised to conduct a searching investigation into the extent of the gambling device racket among WPA employees. In announcing that the suspension order was lifted, an official of the WPA said no definite charges had been preferred against Feinman.

Questions:

1. Who is Solomon Feinman?
2. In your opinion, why was Feinman's suspension lifted?

Relief Roll Purge Nets Big Decrease Throughout County

Long Island Sun, September 11, 1936

As a result of the clearing of home relief rolls in seven of the 10 towns in Suffolk county on Aug. 1, expenditures have been cut 62 percent and the number of cases on the rolls have been reduced 38 per cent for the 30 day period ending on Sept. 1. This reduction combined with a lowering of relief costs as the result of more efficient administration over the past nine months has resulted in the lowest ebb of relief expenditure at any time since the depression.

"I was actually surprised at the large number of persons who suddenly came to the realization that they could go along on their own rather than seek public assistance," Mr. Williams said. "Those who did not re-apply were thoroughly interrogated as to what effort they had made to obtain employment and as to their actual financial need."

Mr. Williams said that most of the persons now remaining on the rolls are unemployables and that a majority of the able-bodied men have been removed. He pointed out that quite a few cases are still pending and that the Winter months will result in a normal increase in home relief costs, but that it is impossible to estimate just how much. "I ordered the relief rolls to be cleared on August 1 because it was apparent that many recipients had developed a certain degree of inertia and had acquired a relief habit," he said. "They had become discouraged and had ceased to make an effort to find a job, which is a natural result that cannot be condemned."

Questions:

1. Why was there a decrease in Suffolk County relief expenditures?
2. According to this article, why are less people applying for public assistance?
3. In your opinion, is the county catching welfare cheats or is it hurting innocent victims of the depression? Explain your answer.

Relief Staff's Squawk Over Hours Brings Longer Workday For All
Long Island Sun, September 18, 1936

Hours were officially lengthened for employees of the Babylon Townhouse Wednesday and those affected reacted in many ways. The resolution, offered by Justice William F. Wolter and seconded by Justice Frederic W. Frost, set the townhouse hours from 9 to 5, whereas to date the hours have been from 9 to 4:30.

The action followed a protest from town employees in the relief office that they should have the same hours as those enjoyed by the employees in the townhouse. The relief office staff has quit work at 4:30 during July and August and Welfare Officer Joan T. Morris was planning to add the regular half-hour now that fall had arrived.

Questions:

1. Whose work hours were changed by the new regulations?
2. In your opinion, should all workers work the same number of hours? Why or why not?
2. Why is it stated to be more of an inconvenience for married women?

Committee Formed By New Dealers to Coerce Employees
Long Island Sun, September 18, 1936

New Deal fear of defeat in November has caused it to launch another nation-wide campaign for support which for sheer stupidity and silliness outdoes many other things attempted by it, according to Representative Robert L. Bacon, vice-chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee.

A Committee has been formed headed by New Deal Senator, Bennett Champ Clark, of Missouri, which seeks coercion of employees to vote the New Deal ticket in November. It is an agency of intimidation designed to compel support of persons who can personally be "delivered" and they include "employees" and others who "will do as they are told," he said.

"Those who work for a living will very properly resent this despicable attempt at intimidation and it will not prevent them from voting their honest convictions," said Representative Bacon. "In this effort the New Dealers have overreached themselves. Our people will not stand for this type of political bludgeoning."

Questions:

1. Why is the New Deal launching a nationwide campaign in September, 1936?
2. What does Representative Bacon accuse the New Dealers of trying to do? Why?
3. In your opinion, does Congressman Bacon support or oppose the New Deal? What evidence supports your viewpoint?

Speakers Assail New Deal, Hail GOP Candidate
The Garden City News, October 8, 1936

Garden City Republicans last night packed the Casino to capacity to hear the Republican ticket acclaimed and the New Deal assailed by Representative Robert L. Bacon of Old Westbury and State Senator Joe R. Hanley of Perry, N.Y. The Senator launched into an arraignment of the New Deal, declaring that the Democratic Donkey had been crossed with the Socialist nightmare.

Question: In your opinion, why is the New Deal accused of crossing "the Democratic Donkey with the Socialist nightmare"?

The Contest is On -- Editorial
The Garden City News, October 8, 1936

In the week ending September 27, a number of highly dramatic and potentially important incidents occurred. The most dramatic event was William Randolph Hearst's attack on the President, in which he said that Mr. Roosevelt had the support of "enemies of the American government" -- that is, the Communists.

Unusually aggressive was Governor Landon's speech on social security, in which he assailed administration methods, though he approves of such a plan in principle. He said the New Deal law was a "cruel hoax," that it endangered "the whole cause of social security," and pledged his party to the enactment of a "pay-as-you-go" old age pension system which would "provide for every American citizen over 65 the supplementary payment necessary to give a minimum income sufficient to protect him or her from want."

The endless speculation as to who will win continues. The Literary Digest poll, on the basis of early returns, gives Landon a big lead -- most other polls give Roosevelt a small but seemingly safe margin.

Questions:

1. Why do you think William Randolph Heart identifies Roosevelt and the New Deal with "enemies of the American government"?
2. In your opinion, why is *The Garden City News* publicizing this attack?
3. What is Governor Landon's view on the New Deal social security plan?
4. Roosevelt was reelected overwhelmingly. Why do you think the public opinion polls were so wrong?

GOP Supporters Scent Victory As November 3 Nears
The Garden City News, October 22, 1936

With the G.O.P. Elephant charging relentlessly forward in Nassau County, party heads and workers now in the middle of a strenuous campaign, are preparing for the final spurt that they assert will mean victory at the polls on November 3.

Mrs. Edward A St. John, chairman of activities of the Nassau County Federation of Republican Woman addressed the Women's Club at Baldwin where she decried the Administration's assault on the Constitution. "It is imperative," Mrs. St. John said, "that every American man and woman be acquainted with the freedom and rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Without this knowledge we are unable to determine the extensive effects of the present administration's policies in its increasing control over every act... Americans who know their constitution will defend it."

Question: In your opinion, why are Nassau Republicans concerned that the New Deal violates the Constitution?

Roosevelt, Landon and Labor -- Editorial
The Farmingdale Post, October 22, 1936

Where are the evidences of this industrial boom that Mr. Roosevelt's speeches proclaim? The truthful answer is that there is none and can be none as long as Mr. Roosevelt is President.... The "American way of life" never could flourish under the dole.... The only way labor and capital can go forward is with the help of a government which by encouraging both paves the way for the return of industry unhampered by petty restrictions. We believe Governor Landon's record and his convictions expressed on many occasions show that the American way of life can be re-established under an administration headed by him.

Question: Why does *The Farmingdale Post* believe the election of Governor Landon as president will benefit working people?

Sprague Charges Intimidation of Women Workers
The Hempstead Sentinel, October 29, 1936

Women workers in a factory right in your own village of Hempstead have been intimidated in the worst way and fifty cents a week has been taken out of their pay envelopes to support Roosevelt's election, it was charged by Supervisor J. Russel Sprague at a meeting of the Hempstead Republican Club.

Not mentioning by name the factory nor the one woman worker, who he said appeared before the District Attorney and wanted to know what could be done about having her pay envelope short 50 cents a week, Supervisor Sprague declared the District Attorney had summoned the factory proprietor, who under questioning admitted that a representative of the garment workers had come to the factory and demanded that he be permitted to speak to the women workers.

The Supervisor also charged that intimidation was being used on WPA projects when pay envelopes were distributed with the remark, "you better remember where the pay envelope comes from."

Questions:

1. What charges are being made by Supervisor J. Russel Sprague?
2. Supervisor Sprague is a Nassau County Republican leader. Does this change the way you evaluate his charges? Why or why not?
3. According to the District Attorney's investigation, who asked the women workers for contributions?
4. In your opinion, are these activities illegal intimidation? Why or why not?

Editorial

The Hempstead Sentinel, October 29, 1936

Releases from Nassau County Democratic headquarters at Mineola in reciting what it terms "the benefits made possible to the people of Nassau County only by the New Deal," lists as a WPA project, "Hempstead - three school additions."

The school additions in Hempstead never were a PWA project, were approved by a vote, and were financed locally after a request for a loan was turned down by the Federal Government.

Strangely though, after the locally financed bonds of \$350,000 were sold the school authorities received a notification from the Federal Government a loan of \$650,000 had been approved.

Questions:

1. How does the editorial challenge claims made by the Nassau Democratic Club?
2. In your opinion, why does *The Hempstead Sentinel* call the Federal loan strange?
3. In your opinion, is this editorial an example of good reporting or partisan politics? Explain.

A Great Decision -- Editorial

The Farmingdale Post, October 29, 1936

In five more days the voters of Nassau County, in common with those of every other county in the nation, will make a decision we are convinced will be one of the most far-reaching made in the history of the United States.... We shall vote for Alfred M. Landon for President because we believe that if elected he will form a government in which all classes of Americans will have a voice....We are unused to the goose step of Federal control.

Questions:

1. Who does *The Farmingdale Post* endorse for President?
2. What is the New Deal being compared with in the complain about the "goose step of Federal control"?
3. In your opinion, why are the Nassau County newspapers so anti-Roosevelt?

Activity: Draw a political cartoon showing local newspaper views of Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Cut in Relief Seen
Long Island Sun, November 3, 1936

Relief -- the big item in the Babylon budget, is due for a substantial reduction. Just how much will be sliced from last years net figure of \$148,845, which amounted to more that one-third of the total budget, John T. Morris, Town Welfare Officer, is not prepared to say.

Questions:

1. In your opinion, how can the Babylon Town Board justify cutting relief?
3. Imagine you are the head of a family of six, your spouse was permanently injured on the job, and you are currently unemployed. Write a letter to the Babylon Town Board explaining your reactions to their plan.

1936 Election Results

Republican Vote Sets New Record In This Village
The Garden City News, November 5, 1936

Unaffected by the Democratic landslide that roared across the country to blanket every state but two in the presidential race, Garden City went to the polls on Tuesday and gave smashing pluralities to all of the Republican candidates, local, state, and national, in a record vote. The total cast for Roosevelt was 969, a substantial figure; but Landon received 3,543.

Nassau Holds Majorities For Republicans
The Hempstead Sentinel, November 5, 1936

Nassau County and Hempstead Village maintained in Tuesday's election their Republican frontage despite the terrific country wide onslaught that continued the new deal in power, by giving Landon a higher majority than it did for Hoover four years ago.

Total 1936 Presidential Vote in Nassau County

	Roosevelt	Landon
Hempstead	47,907	60,627
Oyster Bay	7,241	11,073
Glen Cove	2,383	2,900
N. Hempstead	13,310	18,844
Long Beach	3,443	1,505
County Total	74,284	94,949

Question: In your opinion, why did Nassau County voters defy the national trend?

Activity: Write a letter to the editor of one of the local newspapers expressing your view of their election coverage.

Seek WPA Link With Gaming Racket

Long Island Sun, December 28, 1936

Examination of the wheels and gaming equipment seized at the Copiague raid showed they were crooked. At least two of the wheels were equipped with brakes that would stop them at any number the operator desired. Radios that were offered as prizes in another instance turned out to be mere shells. Through questioning of the prisoners led them to believe that racket might be widespread among WPA workers, and for that reason he communicated with administrators in Northport.

Questions:

- 1- How was the gaming wheel tampered with?
- 2- Why are people so concerned that WPA workers are involved in the cheating?

Public Water Plant Is Defeated Again In Lindenhurst Poll

Long Island Sun, December 28, 1936

Interest in the poll was so keen and it was so hotly contested that two arrests resulted. In addition a number of voters were challenged. Many taxpayers, not registered to vote in general elections, stormed the polls demanding the right to cast a ballot on an issue, which affected their pocketbooks. They were repeatedly told that only registered voters could cast a ballot.

Questions:

- 1- What evidence is there that this was a hotly contested election?
2. In your opinion, why was the proposal to build a Lindenhurst water plant defeated?

1937 - 1940

As war clouds build in Europe and Asia, most Americans continue to support neutrality. In May, 1937, President Roosevelt signs the third Neutrality Act, expanding the Neutrality Acts of 1935 and 1936. It continues the United States ban on exporting weapons to nations involved in wars. However, there is growing support for rearming the United States. In January, 1938, President Roosevelt, proposes new appropriations for the U.S. armed forces, especially the Navy. In his January 1939 State of the Union Address, President Roosevelt shifts his emphasis from domestic issues to the tense international scene. His budget formally requests a huge increase in defense spending. In July, 1939, he asks Congress to end the arms embargo against England and France. In November 1939, Roosevelt signs a new Neutrality Act that allows the sale of weapons to belligerent nations under specific conditions, conditions that will favor England and France. The build up in military spending has a major impact on the economy of Long Island, where many aviation companies are located.

Suggests Governments Take On Huge Public Improvement As Cure For Depression *The Hempstead Sentinel, March 17, 1937*

Supreme Court Justice, Thomas C. Cuff, has stated before the Hempstead Lions Club, "Let all governments embark on a program of public improvements even right here in Hempstead as a means of curing the depression." Cuff said nothing has been done to help, "settle the depression other than doing a lot of talking." Cuff also noted that people are not hoarding money as some suggest since over 4 million Americans are out of work. Public Offices cutting public work has not helped either.

Cuff told the Lions that if the government embarks on a public improvement program, men will be able to work. They will have wages to spend on merchants and then private capital will be on the open market. He mentioned that taxes are heavy now, but they will get worse if programs are not implemented soon.

Questions:

1. What does Supreme Court Justice Cuff suggest governments do to ease the impact of the depression?
2. In your opinion, do his suggestions have merit? Why or why not?
3. In your opinion, do you think government agencies should create jobs in order to stimulate the economy? Explain.

\$8,500,000 To Be Paid For Land For Parkways *Long Island Sun, December 27, 1937*

Property owners along the Interborough and Grand Central Parkways in Queens, can plan on some extensive holiday shopping -- for they may get city checks for more than \$8,500,000 by Christmas. It followed filing of final decrees in condemnation proceedings for both parkways, extending from Nassau County to Pennsylvania Ave. in Brooklyn.

Questions:

1. How much money is the government spending to buy the land to build these roads?
2. How will these new highways affect long island?
3. What will be the impact on the economy? Why?

Stockholders Change Name of Company

The Farmingdale Post, October 19, 1939

Carrying out the recommendations of the Board of Directors, the stockholders of the Seversky Aircraft Corporation changed the name of the company to Republic Aircraft Corporation. It took a few days for the name to be changed at our busy East Farmingdale plant due to paperwork. Local residents noted that workmen were busy changing all the signs to show that the Republic name had officially "taken over".

Meanwhile, unemployment figures at the plant continued to decrease, as work on large U.S. army planes and foreign orders increased. The amount of money being paid to Republic is more than three times as high the amount the plant has ever been paid.

The company is said to be contemplating extensive changes or extensions to the plant. This would permit the increased number of workers to be handled more efficiently. Congestion on Conklin Street due to the increased activity at the plant will be addressed at the town meeting in a few days. The company also reported that their bowling league will start next week. More than 140 men and 40 women have signed up to play.

Questions

1. What was the first name of Republic Aviation Corporation?
2. How is increased military spending affecting life on Long Island?

Republic Plant Adds More Than 50 Men Per Day

The Farmingdale Post, November 9, 1939

Unfilled orders at the Republic Aviation Corporation amounted to \$10,238,598.41, it was announced yesterday. Mr. W. Wallace Kellett, president of the corporation said that employment at the East Farmingdale plant was climbing towards a new high level and that production on current business will carry over until 1941, disregarding any new contracts that arise.

The company's \$10,000,000 figure compares with the company's total sales for 1938 which amounted to \$3,597,596.94. Among the orders on backlog are two from the United States Army, and one for the Royal Air Force of Sweden. There are other foreign orders as well, as orders for various parts and tools. All planes on orders are of a military type, which Republic has been busy designing new models. None of the contracts that Republic is filling, involve any belligerent nations. New men are joining Republic at the rate of 50 per day. One of the first jobs for the new men was to finish hanging the new "Republic Aviation Corporation" signs to replace the old Seversky ones. Hangar signs are being replaced as quickly as possible.

Questions:

1. What types of contracts are being filled at Republic Aviation?
2. In your opinion, why does the company announce that it is not producing planes for "belligerent nations"?
3. How are changes at Republic Aviation helping to end the depression on Long Island?

Republic Men Go To Sweden With Airplanes

The Farmingdale Post, February 1, 1940

Two representatives of the Republic Aviation Corporation will leave Farmingdale this weekend for Sweden, where they will play an important part in assembling the airplanes made for the Royal Air Force of Sweden. Both Frank Ferri and Edward Israel are expected to stay in Sweden for several months, assisting in training crews in maintaining the planes to their highest potential. The aircraft were assembled in Farmingdale, tested, taken apart and put back together again in Sweden.

Questions:

1. What services does Republic Aviation provide the government of Sweden?
2. In your opinion, do actions by companies like Republic Aviation bring the United States closer to entry into World War II? Explain.

Aircraft Men Seek Homes

The Farmingdale Post, February 8, 1940

Surveys conducted by Republic Aviation Corporation of over 1500 plus employees, has shown the growing demand of employees for satisfactory rental opportunities in the vicinity of the plant. A few individuals expressed an interest in purchasing homes, the rest stated that they were looking for property to rent. At present, most of the newer workers are being forced to find dwellings a considerable distance from the plant, up to 18 miles in some cases. Republic is trying to build new houses nearby the plant with the help of the Federal Housing Authority.

Interests are brewing over the fact that an apartment complex might be built close to the plant in a few months. This would help the housing shortage considerably. Republic wants to help all their workers, especially since many of the new people come from other states.

Questions:

1. Why is Republic Aviation helping to build new housing?
2. Eighteen miles does not seem like a long distance to travel to work today. Why do you think the distance was considered so far in 1940?
3. Based on this article, how will the growth of Republic Aviation have a broad impact on the economy of Long Island?

Republic Won't Leave Farmingdale; Prepared to Expand

The Farmingdale Post, May 25, 1940

Republic Aviation Corporation officials relieved the fear of Farmingdale residents that the plant would leave Farmingdale and reestablish in the mid-west as a defense measure. This fear came from a suggestion of President Roosevelt that airplane manufactures should be prepared to move. Officials said that at this time with all the contracts they have to fill, that it would be too costly to dismantle all the planes and move them elsewhere. Most of the contracts belong to the government itself, so they might not want the move either.

One authority speaking unofficially, did note that Conklin Street is getting too congested, and there are many traffic problems in this area. Since there are also transportation and housing problems, any chance of Republic, Ranger, or Liberty expanding would be handicapped at this time. Republic is in the process of adding new manufacturing space and is adding employees constantly. The trouble mentioned above, stems from the traffic congestion that occurs where Conklin Street narrows to a two-lane width, since all the big companies have their plants in this area, accidents and other problems occur.

Questions:

1. What three big companies have plants on Conklin Street?
2. Why are Farmingdale residents concerned that these factories will move?
3. How did Republic Aviation reassure the people of Farmingdale?

Grumman Gets \$7,260,280 National Defense Plane Order

The Farmingdale Post, August 15, 1940

The Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation of Bethpage has been awarded a contract of \$7,269,280 for airplanes, the largest contract yet given under the national defense program. LeRoy Grumman verified the receipt of the contract, but declined to make a statement, saying that all information must come from the Navy or another Government agency.

Grumman also is going before the Town Zoning Board to apply for a change of zone on 57 acres in Bethpage, so they will be permitted to construct additions there. The proposed expansion plan, to take care of the new National Defense orders will cost between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. The Town of Oyster Bay said that they will do everything possible to get the change of zone permit for Grumman as quickly as possible.

Questions:

1. Why is Grumman's new contract so important?
2. Why is the Town of Oyster Bay willing to help Grumman with its zoning quest?
3. If you were a resident of Long Island in 1940, would the growth of the defense industry affect your views about U.S. participation in World War II? Explain.

**"The Depression" - excerpt from *This is Great Neck - A History of
the Great Neck Community from 1600 to the Present*
by Roberta Pincus**

The 20's came to a close with the famous crash, and the ensuing Depression was deeply felt in Great Neck as in the rest of the county. The real estate boom was over and building slowed to a crawl. Houses which might have sold for \$50,000 were now valued at \$10,000. Many in Great Neck felt the effects of personal loss.

Help for the local poor and unemployed was provided by the Great Neck Emergency Employment Committee. All these groups were dedicated to the concept of work rather than the dole. Although food and fuel were given to those in dire need, employment opportunities were stressed. In 1931, Kings Point established a \$10,000 unemployment fund. One hundred fifty men were hired to create Kings Point Park out of the Great Swamp. They were paid \$4.00 per day. In 1938, the park was leased to the Park District for \$100 yearly. Although the lease has been renegotiated since, and attempts have been made to change the park, it remains a beautiful natural habitat affording many recreational opportunities of the community.

Signs of cooperation in a time of financial stress were apparent everywhere. Assessments were lowered and taxes reduced. Charitable organizations donated holiday food baskets to poor families and gave high school scholarships to worthy high school seniors. The school budget was reduced and teachers did not take a salary increase.

Questions:

1. How were wealthy homeowners hurt by the Great Depression?
2. What was the philosophy for helping the needy?
3. How did Great Neck benefit from the depression?
4. According to this article, the school budget was reduced and teachers did not take a salary increase. In your opinion, was this the right thing for the teachers to do? Why?

Oral Histories of the Great Depression on Long Island

The oral histories in this section are about people who grew up in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau County, and Suffolk County during the Great Depression. Sometimes their experiences were very different. Dominick Gadamowitz, who lived in Flushing, Queens describes working in the Civilian Conservation Corps and traveling around the country. Adeline Fischer Cook lived in Suffolk County where her family suffered from both poverty and discrimination. Theresa Dombek from Lindenhurst explains what her mother had to do in order to feed the family. Fred Davis describes his neighborhood in South Ozone Park, Queens, where everyone was poor and people helped each other. Joseph Mancuso describes the close knit Italian community of Bethpage. Ann Fazio Mancuso of Brooklyn discusses how her family was able to get home relief. Peter Corte of Westbury explains how his father went bankrupt and this destroyed his family. David Noyes was from an affluent family that lived in Manhattan and spent its summers in Cold Spring Harbor. For his family, the depression barely occurred. In 1932, the Great Neck News interviewed community residents about why they chose to live in Great Neck. They did not mention the Great Depression either.

Projects for Students:

- Interview older relatives, neighbors, or participants in senior citizen programs about life during the Great Depression and their memories of President Roosevelt and the New Deal.
- Read interviews from *Hard Times* by Studs Terkel and compare life on Long Island during the 1930s with life in other parts of the United States.

Dominick Gadamowitz of Flushing Joins the C.C.C.

by Robert Gadamowitz

Robert Gadamowitz conducted an interview with his grandfather and wrote this oral history while a junior at Franklin K. Lane High School in Queens in 1988. He is currently a math teacher in New York City. It was published on the world wide web at <http://newdeal.feri.org/> by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in 1997.

During the depression, unemployment was especially severe for younger workers. An estimated one-third of all young workers between ages 15 and 24 were unemployed. They made about one-third of the total number of unemployed workers. Two New Deal programs attempted to deal with this problem, the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and the National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.). The C.C.C. was founded in March, 1933. During the next seven years, more than 2,250,000 young men between ages 17 and 25 lived and worked in 1,500 C.C.C. camps located in every state. They performed heavy outdoor labor, including building trails and emergency roads in National Parks. Even at its peak, the C.C.C. could accept only one-sixth of the applicants.

My name is Dominick Gadamowitz. I born in Flushing, New York in 1918. I was the eldest of my parents' eleven children. Like most of my friends, I had to drop out of school at a young age because of the Great Depression. I was thirteen at the time. Leaving school in 1931 was a damaging but necessary choice to make as a young child. My dad asked me if I would come and work with him on construction sites for three or four days a week. I felt as if I had an obligation to help Pop feed the rest of the family because we were really beginning to feel the effects of the depression. The construction industry was in a sharp decline. Therefore, my dad was only working when he was needed. Things got so bad that every time Pop had to put up a new building, the only job he could get for me was a water boy position, even though I became a skilled worker shortly afterwards.

In 1935, at the age of seventeen, I decided to sign up in the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.). This was a program set up by the Roosevelt administration in order to create jobs for young men all across the country. The government paid teenagers thirty dollars a month, twenty-two of which went home to their families to ease the pain of the depression. This was my chance to get away from all of the problems at home and still be able to help provide for my family.

My best friend, James Kelly, and I enrolled in the C.C.C. at our local post office. Within two weeks we were sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for a medical, which we both passed. It was there that we learned that we would be working at Battle Mountain, Nevada. We were sent home to gather our clothes and inform our parents of where we were going, how long we would be there, and any other necessary information that they might have needed to know. Later that week, we rode across country by train to Nevada.

When James and I arrived at Battle Mountain we were given a rough outline of what work we would be doing over the course of our six month stay. Six months was the length of time that one could be enrolled in the C.C.C. However, after your time was up, you could enroll again.

Basically, we built roads and worked on a project called Cricket Control. Locusts had been destroying land that was used to raise cattle. I was our job to prevent this from happening. We put up tin fences around miles of the infected area. We dug holes in the ground about every 150 yards apart at the base of these fences. The locust would fly in the tin and follow the fence right into the holes we had dug. Once the holes were filled with a large amount of locust, we poured kerosene in the holes and burned them. I also did kitchen patrol in the mess hall after dinner a couple of days a week for some extra money.

Living out west for six months was the experience of a lifetime. We did things that a city boy could only dream about doing. I remember how scared I was exploring the unattended parts of the Betsy Ann Gold Mines. The only souvenir that I have from Battle Mountain is a tattoo on my left forearm. It is a picture of an eagle, the coat of arms which represented the C.C.C.

The next three years of my life I spent travelling around the country on freight trains with James. I figured that if I went out on my own my parents would have one less mouth to feed. James and I loved Nevada so much that we decided that we just had to see what the rest of the country was like. We managed to see forty-seven of the forty-eight states, missing only Washington. Throughout these three years we held several low-paying jobs. I wrote my family every month and sent them about twenty-five percent of my earnings. James and I never stayed in one city for more than five or six weeks. I must admit that Arizona was the state that I enjoyed being in the most. The Grand canyon is the most breath-taking sight I have ever laid my eyes upon. We returned home in January, 1938 because we could not keep up our life styles. We were sick and tired of staring death right in the face.

In April, 1938 I decided to join the C.C.C. again because there was still no work available in Flushing. James was lucky enough to get a job in a cup manufacturing plant in New Jersey with his brother, so this time I was on my own. I was stationed up at Norwich, New York. There were acres of government-owned land that had been stripped of pine trees for industrial reasons. Our job was to replant trees in those areas. In 1985 I returned to Norwich for a family reunion. To my amazement, the two-and-a-half foot trees that I planted as a young man were now twenty-five feet tall.

- 1- Where did Dominick Gadamowitz grow up?
- 2- Why did he drop out of school?
- 3- What did Dominick and Jim Kelly do in the Civilian Conservation Corps?
- 4- Why did Dominick and Jim travel around the country instead of going home?
- 5- How did the New Deal help Dominick survive during the Great Depression?

Life in Cutchouge and Mattituck during the Great Depression

by Robin Cook-Jacobsen

Robin Cook-Jacobson is a high school teacher in Carle Place. She is a student in the Master of Arts in Secondary Education program at Hofstra University.

I grew up in Cutchouge and Mattituck during the 1930s and 1940s. There was not any school transportation in those days so I had to walk about five miles each way to school and back. In those days you could walk miles and see maybe one car pass you by. I used to walk home to Cutchouge at night after a game at Mattituck High School. It was scary then and I would never do this now. Sometimes when my sister Vi and I walked home from school some boys would throw rocks at us. They would hide in the bushes and wait for us to pass. Mama and Papa would speak to their parents but it did not help.

Mattituck and Cutchouge were farming communities and still are today. Papa was not a farmer but a mechanic and an upholsterer. Because he did not farm, we were considered outsiders. It did not help that everyone thought we were Jewish because our last name was Fischer. We also never celebrated Christmas because my oldest brother died when I was born and my mother was too upset to celebrate Christmas after that. Not having a Christmas tree just added to the rumors.

My older brother and sister both dropped out of high school because the other students treated them horribly. My brother was not allowed on the school basketball team because no one wanted to play with a Jew. Vi and I started in a different school which was not as bad as the one that they attended. My sister Vi was the first in our family to complete high school.

My father tried twice to open his own mechanic shop, but it failed both times and once it was burned down under suspicious circumstances. Later he went to work for Grumman in Bethpage and would come home on weekends. This was the best time of our life because he had a steady paycheck and we had food on the table. Every holiday Grumman also gave its employees a turkey with all the trimminings and a nice cash bonus.

I used to work to help the family during lean times. I caddied from the time I was eleven until I was seventeen. I gave every cent to Mama. Mama and I also picked potatoes and beans on a local family farm. This was real hard work. While Papa was away, Mama became an independent woman. She did all of the household repairs herself as well as the small farming jobs.

During the depression we went on welfare for a very short period of time. Mama would ask the welfare people for bread or flour and they would demean her. She decided she would rather starve than ask for this help. The children said that we would go to the welfare office, but she would not let us. This is why my father's job at Grumman was such a God send.

- 1- How did Adeline Fischer get to school?
- 2- What evidence of discrimination does Adeline provide in this oral history?
- 3- Why did Adeline's mother decide not to accept welfare?
- 4- In your opinion, how did World War II help end the depression for this family?

Theresa Dombeck Reminisces about Life in Lindenhurst
by Lorraine Lupinskie

Lorraine Lupinskie is a teacher at Harborfields High School in Greenlawn.. She is a student in the Master of Arts in Secondary Education program at Hofstra University.

Theresa Dombeck was born in Lindenhurst, New York in 1926 and lived in the town until 1939. She later returned to Long Island as an adult. Currently, she lives in East Rockaway and is an executive secretary at Hofstra University.

Theresa remembers Lindenhurst during the 1930s as "a good neighborhood with very little crime, except for an old sailor who would sometimes get drunk. It was a neighborhood where everyone knew everyone else. It was also quite a diverse community. We had Italian, German and French neighbors. My best friend was from the only black family in the village."

According to Theresa, the one thing that everybody had in common during the 1930s was "poverty. Economically, we were all on the same level. My dad was a chauffeur and it was difficult to find work. My mom worked at home making lace handkerchiefs. I often helped her by cutting off the excess lace."

"Times were tough and sometimes my family had to get home relief. Home relief was embarrassing because local officials visited the house and checked on us. One time my father was upset and he got us thrown off of home relief. For about four weeks we had to rely on our neighbors to get by."

Theresa explained that during the depression there was just "no money." "We had no money for new shoes. The soles were always worn out and we had to put cardboard in the bottoms." Sometimes it was even difficult to buy food. "The man who ran the vegetable stand at the supermarket used to put the unsellable vegetables on a window shelf and my mother would go at night and take those vegetables for us. Those were hard times. Once, the garbage man came by and there was a sealed box on the truck. My mother made my brother take the box off of the truck. The box was filled with new dishes. We had nothing to put on them, but they sure were pretty."

Watching her parents struggle to survive on a daily basis had a big impact on Theresa. She still remembers a time when she was only six years old. She walked past a neighborhood bank and thought, "that's where the money is. That's where I want to be." After she graduated from high school, Theresa got a job at a bank and worked there for twenty-five years!

- 1- How did Theresa help her mother earn money for the family?
- 2- How did Theresa's mother get enough food for the family?
- 3- In your opinion, why did Theresa's father dislike home relief?
- 4- In your opinion, what could the government have done to improve conditions for Theresa and her family?

Fred Davis Remembers Life in Queens during the Great Depression

by Kevin Bracht

Kevin Bracht is a teacher at St. Brigid, Our Lady of Hope Regional School in Westbury. He is a student in the Master of Arts in Secondary Education program at Hofstra University.

I grew up in South Ozone Park, Queens, during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. It was a predominately Irish and German neighborhood with a few people of Scandinavian ancestry. I went to Public School 45 and graduated from the eighth grade in 1934. I graduated from John Adams High School in 1938. My family, including my mother, father, myself, and two younger brothers, lived in a small bungalow with three bedrooms and one bath house. When I was growing up my father worked for the Health Department of New York City. My mom was always at home. My father and his brother built the house I grew up in without plans from scratch.

I faintly remember the stock market crash. It had only a small impact on my family. My father never lost his job and that kept us from being very poor. The crash caused about half of the people in our community to lose their jobs. These families had no income. Even if you had a salary, it dropped down to nearly nothing. In our neighborhood everyone was poor. We were all in the same boat so you never realized that things were not so good. Everyone around you had the same problems.

Growing up in the 1920s and 1930s was much different from today. We had open lots to run on and play in and we made up our own games. We used to play a game called Ring-o-Livio where five people would be on each team and you would hide in vacant lots and woods and members of the other team would have to catch you. It was great fun. Another game was Johnny Ride the Pony. We would be divided into two teams. One person would have his back to a telephone pole as an anchor. The other members of the team would line up and bend over, wrapping their arms around the guy in front of them. The other team would jump on your backs. If your team could hold them, you would yell, "Buck, buck, how many fingers up!" If you guessed correctly, the other team had to take your place and try to hold up your team.

Families were important back then. Most people's relatives lived within a few blocks of each other. My mom rarely did household chores. It would always fall on my brothers and myself. We used to clean the different floors of the house, take out the garbage, and clean the cellar. Everyone had to be home for dinner together every night. If things were good, my mother would put the portions in the middle of the table and you helped yourself, beginning with dad, mom, and the oldest child. If things were bad and money was short, my mother would put the food on plates and bring it to the table.

Our neighborhood didn't have much money. My brothers and I were prohibited from going into the icebox except if we had permission. My allowance during high school was twenty-five cents a week. No one dressed in a fancy way because no one could afford to. The only jobs we could get was during snow storms. We used to run down to Archer Avenue at the Jamaica LIRR station and try to get picked to shovel the tracks. You could get fifty cents an hour and a bologna sandwich. When I got picked I used to try to work for twenty hours so that at the end the man would give me a \$10 bill.

In 1936-1937 there were some bad snow storms and New York City didn't have enough sanitation trucks. They asked citizens to rent out their own trucks to the city so it could hire more people to pick up snow and garbage. I did this work as well. We used to get \$6 per hour and we would work eight hours of manual labor. The city garbage dump used to be where JFK airport is today.

After I graduated from high school I played baseball for the Philip Morris company team. It was my first real job. One-third of my salary each week went to my family to help pay the household bills. I made it to the Eastern Shore League with the Giants' minor league team in 1940, but I soon realized I didn't have what it took to make the major

leagues and I left baseball. World War II was starting and I got a job as an apprentice in a boat yard repairing Coast Guard and Navy ships.

I think that President Franklin Roosevelt was the savior of this country. he gave everyone hope that something better was going to develop. We used to sit around together as a family and listen to him on the radio giving fireside chats. It was mandatory in most families that everyone listen when the president spoke. The teachers in school even quizzed us on his speeches.

- 1- Why does Fred say that his family was poor but not "very poor"?
- 2- What kind of games did Fred and his friends play?
- 3- How did Fred help his family during the Great Depression?
- 4- What does Fred think about Frankin Roosevelt?
- 5- Do you agree with Fred's attitude about Roosevelt? Why?

Joseph Mancuso Remembers Life in Bethpage during the Great Depression

by Michelle Mancuso, Hofstra University

Michelle Mancuso is a history major with a minor in secondary education .

In 1933, I was fourteen years old and still going to grammar school. I was living at home with my father and mother on Sherman Ave. in Central Park, New York. Today the town is known as Bethpage. My father worked as a laborer and he worked very hard to care for his family.

When I graduated from grammar school I went to high school for only one year, then I went to work to help support my family. My first part-time job was as a caddie at Bethpage State Park. Then I went to work on the local farms. My father died, so I never got to not finish high school. My Mom, my brothers John and Dominick, and I worked on farms doing piece work. We were paid so much per bushel of whatever produce we picked. This work paid practically nothing!

Farm work was summer work only. When the season changed, we began working in a factory. When World War II started we could work both in the winter and summer, full-time, with all the overtime we wanted in the airplane industry.

I started working for Kirkham Engineering. The company was involved in designing and producing airplane parts. The planes were bought and used by the government in World War II. Although work was steady in the Kirkham factory, it was not until the unionization of this company that wages and working conditions improved. Despite unionization, changes were minimal. There were many other unions in other companies that were able to do a lot more.

Despite hardships, the Mancuso family was able to find solace and comfort within the community. We were surrounded by numerous friends and helpful Italian neighbors. There was one family in particular, the Capalogne's, who were especially intimate with the Mancuso's. In those days the Capalogne's lived across the tracks close to the Long Island Railroad. They were good neighbors who helped us through our first winter in Bethpage. The Capalogne's owned cows and chickens so they always had fresh milk and eggs and they would give us some.

For many years one of the neighborhood families used to have people come to their house every Sunday and play bocchi. The poverty that existed for many families on Long Island and in Bethpage caused people to bond closely together.

During World War II the aircraft industry and began to dominate Long Island. With the growth of companies like Grumman, Liberty and Republic, came the eventual end of country life. We sold the land where our house was to Grumman Aircraft in 1941, forcing us to relocate to the corner of Stewart and Grant Avenues in Bethpage. Although we received some financial compensation for the land, we never again possessed as much land as we had on Sherman Ave.

- 1- Why did Joseph Mancuso leave high school?
- 2- How did neighbors help each other during the Great Depression?
- 3- According to Joseph Mancuso, how did World War II change Long Island?

Ann Fazio Mancuso Remembers Life in Brooklyn during the Great Depression
by Michelle Mancuso, Hofstra University

During the Great Depression, home relief, or public welfare, was primarily seen as the responsibility of local governments and private charities. The Emergency Relief Act of 1932 provided federal loans to help local communities carry for poor people. A Federal Emergency Relief Administration was established in 1933. Most federal money was channelled into public works programs. By 1934, an average of four million families, one-sixth of the population of the United States, was receiving some form of government assistance. However, in 1935, President Roosevelt declared that the "Federal Government must and shall quit this business of relief."

During the 1930s my grandmother, Ann Fazio Mancuso, lived in Brooklyn. Her parents never owned a home. They always rented apartments. When the rent went up, the family had to move to some place more affordable. They moved at least three times during her childhood. Ann graduated from grammar school and attended high school for only a short time. Ann explained "I never graduated, but that was nothing. I had a brother that only went up until the fifth grade, and a sister that only went up until the sixth grade. Back then, it wasn't mandatory that children go to school. You only went as long as you could. You see, my parents needed our help. Back then, the children supported their parents; the parents often could not support their children. This was because men, in those days, didn't have steady jobs. They would only have summer jobs. They would find work on the docks or working as laborers building up the city. This work was only part-time. It would leave them unemployed for the majority of the winter."

Being as poor as they were, my grandmother's family once were recipients of welfare, or what she called "home relief". She explained, "It was for people who were really poor. If you were unable to get a job, and you wanted to get on relief, they would send someone over to your apartment to check you out and make sure that you really needed the aid. I remember while we were on relief, the only one who was working was my sister Rosie, and she would take off from work on the days that the people from the home relief office would come to check up on us. That was the only way that we could get something out of the government. What else could you do? The Government wasn't very helpful at that time."

My grandmother's family experienced numerous acts of kindness from people in their community. "I remember there was a rich furrier. He owned a factory about a block away from the street that I lived on. About once a month, he would send big baskets of all different kinds of food to the needy families of the neighborhood. It would help to keep them going. He was a good man, a kind man. People that had more than we did never made us feel ashamed. "

- 1- Why did the Fazio family keep moving to new apartments?
- 2- How was the family able to get home relief?
- 3- Do you think the family was wrong when it did this? Explain your answer.
- 4- In your opinion, should the New Deal have made it easier to get home relief? Why?

Peter Corte of Westbury Remembers Life during the Great Depression
by Theresa Stupin, Hofstra University

The volume of sales on the New York Stock Exchange climbed from 236 million shares in 1923 to 1,125 shares in 1928. The rising stock market was the backbone of American prosperity and many investors became rich. However, in early September, 1929, prices on the stock market started rise and fall erratically and this pattern continued for over a month. Finally, on Tuesday, October 29, 1929, the stock market broke sharply and prices continued to decline for the next three years. By July, 1932, at the bottom the the depression, industrial stocks were worth less than 15% of their value in September, 1929.

I was born in 1923 and lived in the Bronx with my brother, sister and parents. We lived in an apartment building that my uncle owned. My father was a waiter at the George Washington Market. He was making pretty good money and had saved enough to invest in the stock market. He believed whole-heartedly in the economic system and in the American Dream of getting rich quick. His faith led to a comfortable living until 1929, when the Great Depression began and he lost all his monetary assets. I remember when he took me to the bank to retrieve his safety deposit box. When he opened the box, he looked at me and said, "Peter, look at all this worthless paper!"

Fortunately my father was able to keep his job at the George Washington Market. He only earned \$12.00 a week, but we were able to stay in our apartment because my uncle owned it. However, my mother left my father and her family. I am not really sure why. It was never talked about, but it is assumed that she left him because he was broke. In Italy, my father was very prosperous and my mother married him to come to America. When my father lost all his money, she left him for a wealthy guy in Chicago. My father was heartbroken over this, so we moved to Italy, staying in Milano for three years.

When I was 10 years old, we moved back to America, settling in Westbury with my aunt. She adopted my family and took care of us. She owned the Winner's Circle and had an apartment above it. That is where we stayed. Westbury was hit extremely hard by the effects of the depression. I remember standing on mile long lines with my aunt to buy two loaves of Silver Cup bread for a nickel. My aunt would pay 25 cents for meat and use it to make soup to feed eight people. Out of that pot of soup, no one would get meat except my aunt and father. The rest of us just got broth.

In order to help my aunt and father, I worked as a caddie at a country club that was near what is now the Nassau Coliseum. I went to school in Westbury and ran to the golf course after school to caddie for \$1.00 a week for some of the biggest celebrities of that time. I caddied for Bing Crosby once, but he was a cheap tipper, so I didn't like to caddie for him. Not long after that I joined the Navy, traveling all over the world, and fighting for our country in the second World War.

- 1- Why did Peter Corte's father believe in the American Dream?
- 2- How was Peter's family destroyed by the depression?
- 3- How was Peter's aunt able to feed the family?

David C. Noyes Remembers Long Island's North Shore in the 1930s
by Ted Bilkey

Ted Bilkey is a teacher at the Garden School in Queens. He is a student in the Master of Arts in Secondary Education program at Hofstra University.

David C. Noyes was born in Manhattan in 1921. His family was economically well off and not really affected by the Great Depression. As a boy, he spent the school year in the city and summer vacations on Long Island. To get to Cold Spring Harbor, the Noyes family drove over the 59th Street Bridge from Manhattan to Queens and then took Queens Boulevard until they reached Jericho Turnpike which took them the rest of the way. In those days, Long Island was considered the country because there were only a few small towns. The trip took the Noyes family passed a number of farms. David remembers that his family would stop at one of the general stores in East Norwich, Hicksville or Syosett, to pick up household supplies.

After the family moved into their rented summer house, David sailed boats daily out of the Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club. At that time, the north shore of Long Island was dominated by the boating industry. David remembers going for bike rides and seeing large saw mills that cut and shaped lumber for the shipyards. The fastest way to get to Connecticut was the local ferry out of Oyster Bay. This ferry ran on steam and chugged along at 6 to 8 knots, which is equivalent to about ten miles per hour.

During the early 1930s the United States prohibited the use of alcoholic beverages. Sometimes boats were used to transport illegal booze into the country. One day the Noyes' gardener went fishing for bluefish. When the gardener returned, David went to investigate his catch and found illegal bottles of alcohol under the stacks of fish. He never reported this to his parents.

In 1939, at the age of eighteen, David Noyes sailed a forty-five foot sail boat from Virginia to New York City. As the crew approached the East River, they were nervous because they did not know the river very well. The sun was setting, so they decided to wait until morning. When the sun came up, they followed a large garbage barge being pushed by a tug boat. After a number of miles, the tug came to its destination at Riker's Island, which was a tiny island where garbage was used as landfill. This island of trash eventually grew and today it is used as a prison.

During the New Deal, public works programs built roads and developed Long Island. David remembers that wealthy people in Cold Spring Harbor and other North Shore communities did not want lower income families to move into the area so the towns passed rules that new homes could only be built if the property was at least two acres. This prevented large scale development on the North Shore.

- 1- Use David Noyes' story to explain how Long Island in the 1930s was different from today.
- 2- What is your opinion of efforts by people on the north shore to prevent less wealthy people from moving into their communities? Why?

Why I Prefer To Live In Great Neck

These interviews with Great Neck residents are reprinted from the April 15, 1932 issue of *The Great Neck Record*.

Walter P. Chrysler, Motor Car Manufacturer: "I have always found Great Neck a most delightful place in which to live. Its distinct advantages attracted me a good many years ago and I have come to have an increasing appreciation of the beauty, convenience and climate of this pleasant section of Long Island. As a suburban community, it is ideally located, combining natural country surroundings with proximity to the city."

Eddie Cantor, Comedian: "There are many reasons why I selected Great Neck for my residence. First, it is the nicest suburb in America. I have visited many suburban towns from New York to California, and I have yet to find Great Neck's equal as a place to live. Secondly, one can be mighty proud of his neighbors -- all good, substantial, worthwhile, successful citizens. The schools are excellent; the shops are the finest. There is something of the "big city" in our village.

Forty minutes after I leave Broadway with its lights, its hustle, bustle, and artificiality, I pull up to my door in Great Neck, ready to relax and enjoy the peaceful country atmosphere."

Joseph P. Grace, Chairman of the Board, W.R. Grace & Co.: "It is a fine thing to live in the neighborhood of Great Neck because it is the nearest bit of lovely country and the best sporting centre near New York. The Sound for yachting, racing at Belmont Park, the best polo in the world nearby, five first class golf courses and one public course just south of Great Neck are some of the features.

The hilly North Shore from Great Neck to Smithtown is beautiful but there is no finer spot than the model village of Kings Point on the northern end of Great Neck. Nearer the station there are homes for all tastes including a few garden apartment houses, all with suitable planting and in no section are there rows of closely placed houses which so often disfigure the countryside near New York.

Great Neck is half an hour from Pennsylvania Station and sixteen miles from Queensborough Bridge and is still a place where one should be able to live comfortably for a number of years to come."

Otto S. Young, Insurance Broker: We came to Great Neck in 1918 because even at that time we found upon investigation that it was a distinct community that to our mind made it stand apart from any other such on Long Island. In the first place, we took into consideration its close proximity to New York, yet out of the city limits itself, and also its communiting advantages. Secondly, its beautiful homes and the pride every owner took in the care of his grounds. In the third place the class of its residents, from the multi-millionaire to the young professional man and business executive indicated the presence of advantages that would make Great Neck a desirable place to live in.

All of these decided us to locate here. Even in these hard times property values have not, in my opinion, deteriorated and very few foreclosures, I understand, have really taken place. Yes, Great Neck is one of the garden spots of the Metropolitan area; it was originally built on a solid foundation, and I know everyone is proud to live here.

- 1- What do these descriptions of Great Neck share in common?
- 2- In your opinion, why were these people able to avoid the problems other people experienced during the Great Depression?

The Works Progress Administration on Long Island

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was established on May 6, 1935 and took over responsibility for earlier federal public works programs. Its name was changed to the Work Projects Administration in 1939. About 75% of its projects were in construction, but it also sponsored the Federal Art Project, the Federal Music project, the Federal Theatre Project, and the Federal Writers' Project.

During the New Deal, the WPA was responsible for the construction of hundreds of miles of sidewalks in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, the extension of sewer and water systems in Greenport, Hempstead, Central Park (Bethpage), Freeport, Northport, Garden City, Huntington, Glen Cove, and Long Beach, building of an underground reservoir in Bethpage State Park, numerous swamp drainage and highway projects, and the construction of coastal culverts. Long Island also benefited from the installation of thousands of street signs, improvements in the Belgrave and Syosset garbage disposal plants, the construction of a Suffolk County airport, and school construction and repair projects, including work done in Huntington, Farmingdale, Port Jefferson, and Manhasset. Major work was done improving access to Jones Beach and Sunken Meadow Park and recreation areas and in Rockville Centre and Cedarhurst, garbage disposal sites were transformed into athletic facilities. The WPA also produced numerous works of public art and a guide to Long Island communities. In addition, many New York City construction projects, especially LaGuardia Airport, the Queens Midtown Tunnel, and the Triborough Bridge, benefited Long Island residents.

WPA programs on Long Island were not without scandal. On December 9, 1935, the *Nassau Daily Review* demanded the removal of Harold Howe as WPA Director for Nassau and Suffolk Counties because he had assigned "unprepared office workers to manual labor in the wintry cold at Jones Beach." The paper charged that this "climaxes the evidence of alleged mismanagement of WPA affairs in Nassau County." In addition, a grand jury was meeting to investigate the conduct of the county's relief administration. On August 28, 1936, the *Long Island Sun* reported on an investigation into connections between the WPA and illegal gambling at carnivals operated to raise money for local charities. Eight people were arrested at a rigged wheel of fortune in Copiague that was operated by WPA workers.

New Deal Public Works Art Projects

by Renee Landsman, Hofstra University

Renee Landsman in completing a combined graduate program in Secondary Education Social Studies and in Special Education at Hofstra University.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as President in March, 1933, he promised bold experimentation to end the Great Depression. At that time, there were nearly fifteen million unemployed people in the United States, including approximately ten thousand artists.

In May, 1933, an artist named George Biddle wrote to President Roosevelt urging him to start an art mural project similar to one developed in Mexico during the 1920s. According to Mr. Biddle, as a result of this program, Mexican artists had produced the greatest national school of mural painting since the Italian Renaissance. Working for "plumber's wages," they had decorated the walls of the government buildings with paintings that expressed the social ideals of the Mexican revolution. A similar program in the United States would promote art, beautify the nation, provide employment, and promote the ideals of the New Deal. President Roosevelt referred Mr. Biddle's request to the U.S. Treasury Department.

In November, 1933, President Roosevelt created the Civil Works Administration (CWA) in order to implement a work-relief program. Its goal was to hire four million people during the harsh winter months. The CWA established almost one hundred professional work-relief job classifications, including categories for artists. In addition, in December, 1933, the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) was formed under the auspices of the Treasury Department. The primary aim of the PWAP was to provide work for unemployed artists creating sculptures and paintings about American life for non-Federal public buildings and parks.

During the winter and spring of 1934-1935, the Roosevelt administration again tried to meet the demand for work-relief for the nation's unemployed. On April 8, 1935, President Roosevelt signed an appropriation for about \$800 million and on May 6, 1935, he issued an executive order creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Harry Hopkins, a chief relief manager, was placed in charge of this program. Under Hopkins, the WPA started the Federal Art Project and the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP). Artists were assigned to decorate post offices and other Federal buildings. Every project was supervised by a master artist who organized a team of formally unemployed relief artists. Under TRAP, 89 murals and 43 sculpture projects were created for federal buildings and housing projects and about 10,000 easel paintings were given to government buildings and embassies.

The most extensive New Deal programs for the arts was the WPA Federal Art Project (FAP). FAP activities reached almost everywhere in the United States with projects devoted to Music, Drama, Literature, and Art. The director of the FAP was Holger Cahill, an authority on American folk art, who used his positions at the Newark Museum and the Museum of Modern Art to involve the nation's leading artists. Under his auspice, the FAP programs included the creation of art, art education, and community service. The easel division of the FAP created over 108,000 paintings.

The sculpture division created almost 18,000 works of art, including small ceramic and papier-maché figures that were given to schools and portrait busts and welded metal abstractions for public buildings, parks, and housing developments. The graphic division produced more than 200,000 fine prints from over 11,000 art designs and the poster division produced about 2 million silk-screen copies of 35,000 original designs. In addition, in many big cities the Art Teaching Divisions sponsored art classes.

A number of WPA murals are still on display on Long Island. They include art work at the Bay Shore, Westhampton, and Yaphank Post Offices in Suffolk County, the Floral Park, Freeport, Garden City, Great Neck, Hempstead, Long Beach, Mineola, Oyster Bay, Port Washington, and Rockville Centre Post Offices in Nassau County, SUNY Farmingdale, the Hempstead Fire House (Southside Hose Company No. 2), and Hicksville and Sewanaka Central High Schools and Hicksville Junior High School. The Hempstead Fire House has six murals that illustrate the history of fire fighting; the Sewanaka Central High School student cafeteria has two murals by WPA artist Frederick Marshall that depict native American life on Long Island; and the Hempstead, Mineola, Oyster Bay, and Port Washington Post Office murals focus on local history.

Source: David Shapiro, organizer and editor, "Art for the People - New Deal Murals on Long Island" (Hofstra University, Emily Lowe Gallery, November 1- December 31, 1978)

Projects for Students:

- Create a photo display of Long Island New Deal murals.
- Paint "New Deal" murals or posters explaining New Deal programs or illustrating problems caused by the Great Depression.
- Research recent debates over government funding of the National Council for the Arts. Have a class discussion: Should the government subsidize art?

The History and Geography of Long Island

reprinted from the New York State WPA Guide
edited by Kevin Bracht, St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School

Long Island, thrusting 125 miles eastward from New York Bay to a point abreast of New London, Connecticut, faces the New England coast across Long Island Sound on the north and fronts the open Atlantic on the south. The long, narrow outline of the island resembles that of a whale. Its eastern end is split by Peconic Bay and the 50-mile peninsulas thereby formed are the north and south 'flukes.'

Topographically the island is almost a plain. On the north coast bluffs rise to a height of 200 feet. South of these extending well into the island midriff, run several chains of hills, with High Hills, the highest point on the island, attaining an altitude of 410 feet. From these elevations the surface declines gently southward toward the sea, forming the great plain, well suited for agriculture. On the south shore, between Rockaway and South Hampton, the ocean waves break on a narrow ribbon of sand cut by several inlets and backed up by the waters of the Great South Bay. The west portion of this sandbar has been developed into a series of bathing resorts chief among which are Rockaway, Long and Jones Beaches.

Historians group the aboriginal inhabitants of Long Island, estimated never to have exceeded 1,000 in number, in two loose federations: the Montauk to the east, the Delaware to the West. No full blooded aborigine remains. His memory survives in the names he supplied for villages, streets, and bays; and the reservations marked off at Shinnecock and Poosepatuck are the only estates left to his mixed Negroid and Indian heirs.

In 1609 Henry Hudson, seeking the fabled northwest passage, entered New York Bay and landed on Coney Island. Hollanders settled on the western end of the island, but were slow in extending their settlements eastward. In the next generation the restless English, descending from Connecticut and the Bay colony, landed in Southampton, Southold, and other 'down east' points; by 1643 they were in Hempstead. The inevitable friction was followed by a division of control in 1650, the boundary line running from Oyster Bay south to the ocean. In 1664 the entire island became part of the Province of New York.

The island was little affected by events of the following two centuries. Slowly it gained in population, its economy built upon the soil and the bay waters. During the Revolution the east towns supported the patriots strongly, but by no means unanimously. In the western section there were many Tories who in the end paid heavily in confiscated estates for their preference for King George. After the Battle of Long Island in 1770, the English held the island in a firm grip until the final evacuation in 1784. During the War of 1812 the island was largely at the mercy of the British.

The whaling industry, a minor Colonial enterprise, boomed after the signing of peace. Sag Harbor and Greenport vessels covered much of the world in the hunt for oil and bone. The opening up of the West turned Long Island farmers more and more to truck gardening. Meantime the fisheries expanded to meet a growing demand; Saddle Rock and Blue Point oysters were called for the world over. Fish fertilizer is another Long Island product.

The coming of the railroad in the 1830's was the first step in modern transit. At first the inhabitants took to it unkindly; sparks from the engine burned their fields and destroyed their crops. In 1900 the Pennsylvania Railroad acquired control and provided for the Long Island Railroad a terminus in midtown Manhattan. The communication passenger traffic on the Long Island Railroad increased rapidly.

The island comprises four counties; Kings (Brooklyn), Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk. The first two are constituent parts of New York City, so that when a New Yorker speaks of Long Island he refers to Nassau and Suffolk. These two counties present a marked contrast. Nassau, with a population of more than 300,000 and an area of 252 square miles, is a congestion of bustling villages containing the homes of the hordes of executives, clerks, and artisans who are disgorged every evening from the metropolis. The soil is secondary. Suffolk, with half the population of Long Island and an area four times as large as Nassau, depends primarily on agriculture and fishing.

Its farmers, fisherman, clammers, and local shop people live in scattered villages, many with white wood churches casting peaceful shadows on village greens reminiscent of the New England coast and countryside. The tempo of life is slow, and traditional mores govern.

The backbone of the economy of Suffolk is truck farming. The light topsoil is easily worked, and the gravelly subsoil provides excellent drainage. The growing season is long, rainfall is generally ample, and, most important of all, close at hand is the largest market in the world. The two chief crops are potatoes, and cauliflower. In 1930, Suffolk country produced 6,700,570 bushels of potatoes, more than twice as much as its nearest rival among the counties of the State; and Nassau grew 805,207 bushels. The average Suffolk cauliflower crop is 700,000 crates, comprising about seven-tenths of the State's total.

Livestock is largely limited to fowls; there are many eggs and broiler farms, but no reliable figures are available on output. The Long Island duckling has been well advertised and no doubt imposters have crept to restaurant tables on his fame; but he does exist 6,000,000 of him, whitening the shores of coves and canals from Speonk east, and adding from four to six million dollars to the yearly income of Long Island.

Oyster and clams furnish employment to a rather individualistic sector of the population - baymen of the south side and a smaller contingent out of the northern harbors. In 1930, the product of Nassau County waters was valued at \$157,926; that of Suffolk, far in the lead, \$880,795. Catering to the amateur fisherman is a thriving seasonal occupation calling for a rather heavy investment in small boats for landlocked waters and larger ones to face the sea off Montauk or to plow through the tides of the inlets.

A large commuting population in its western quarter, farmers, fishermen and local shopkeepers - these are the foundations on which the island economy rests. During the winter months the communities go about their business quietly and methodically. With the coming of the summer month the island, with its bathing, beaches, camp sites, yacht clubs, golf clubs, polo clubs, fishing grounds, and State parks, becomes a playground for the metropolitan millions.

Hard-surfaced roads gridiron the western quarter of the island, but farther east the pattern becomes more diffuse. The west-to-east road system is admirably balanced; two highways serve the 'north shore,' two the 'south shore,' one the middle island belt - all supplemented by two excellent State parkways built with an eye to scenic effect and offering speedy access to points well inland. Extensions, which will ultimately take these parkways to most of the principal State parks, are being built as planned.

A Guided Tour of Long Island's North Shore

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edited by Kevin Bracht, St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School

State 25A, reached from Manhattan Island via the Queensboro Bridge, serves the indented north shore of Long Island. Long Island Sound is always close and often in sight. Through some stretches the road, rising and dipping to the uneven surface, is bordered by oak-forest.

Manhasset (2,827 pop.) is one of the oldest communities on the north shore. Facing State 25A, opposite Shelter Rock Road, is the Friends Meeting House, built in 1810; greenish weathered shingles and gray slate roof give the two-story structure the appearance of age. The Onderdonk House, 2931 N. Hempstead Turnpike, built in 1836, is considered Long Island's finest example of Greek Revival architecture. The portico, two stories high, is composed of four Doric columns and triangular pediment, with the entrance doorway between the two left columns. One-story wings project from the main section.

Roslyn (970 pop.) stretching along the curving shore of Hempstead Harbor, is backed by the wooded slopes of the Wheatley Hills. For many years the settlement was known as the Town at the Head of the Head.

Sea Cliff (4,435 pop.) Originally planned as a summer resort but now a residential village, clings to the side of the hill.

Glen Cove (12,401 pop.) is one of Long Island's two incorporated cities and the business center of Cove neck. Its narrow and hilly streets hum with activity in summer when vacationists at Lattington, Glen Cove Landing, and Bayville, near - by seaside colonies, do the week end marketing.

Locust Valley (2,304 pop.) A residential community, historically interesting as the spot where Captian John Underhill acquired much land and lived his last years.

Matinecock (421 pop.) and **Mill Neck** (516 pop.) Links in the cross -neck road, are residential. The entire village Mill Neck and parts of the surrounding lnads have been designated as a game snactuary supported by provate funds in co-operation wihth he State Conservation Department. There are approximately 3,800 acres of land and lakes; all wild life is protected and winter feeding is carried on.

Oyster Bay is generally known as the home Theodore Roosevelt (1859 - 1919), 26th President of the United States, but the neighboring incorporated village of **Cove Neck** (274 pop.), rightfully claims that honor, Sagamore Hill. The Roosevelt home on the east side of Moses Harbor is open only to Boy Scouts one day each year. The Roosevelt Grave, Young Memorial Cemetery, surrounded by an iron picket fence, looks over Moses Harbor.

Cold Spring Harbor (713 pop.) Was a whaling port in the middle years of the last century. So many languages were heard on its main street, now State 25A, that the thoroughfare was called Bedlam Street.

Huntington (6,603 pop.) At the foot of West and Dix Hills, spreads down tot he bay front. The British soldiery during the Revolution converted the old cemetery at the eastern end of the business section, into a fort, which, was grisly humor, the named the Fort Golgotha.

In the day of sail, ship out of **Northport**, (3709 pop.), circled the globe in search of markets for the expanding American trade. Between 1820 and 1884, 179 vessels were built in Northport yards; and allied industries thrived, today the village is known as one of the most healthful in State and famous for the fine views from its wooded sloped.

State 25A touches the site of **Fort Salonga**. The fort was a British post captured and destroyed by the Continentals in 1781. Sunken Meadow State Park has a beach, picnic areas, and a playground for children.

In **Kings Park** (232 pop.) is Kings Park State Hospital, an institution for the insane. East of Kings Park are cabbage and cauliflower patches and potato fields.

At **Smithtown** (74 pop.) is the western junction with State 25 with which State 25A runs in common to Smithtown Branch (951 pop.).

Stony Brook (790 pop.) Is built on a hill sloping fown to the water front. The houses are scatterd along winding roads shaded with locusts and maples.

In a depression around the harbor of the same name lies **Port Jefferson** (2,465 pop.). Once a thriving shipbuilding town, it has today two lace factories and several gravel pits; summer visitors supplement its economy. The shipyard still brings a small income from custombuilt cruisers, sloops, and pleasure crafts. A ferry (car and driver \$4, each passenger 75 cents) connects with Bridgeport, Connecticut.

ⁱ*The Farmindale Post*, November 4, 1932; *The Hempstead Sentinel*, November 3, 1932; *The Garden City News*, October 19, 1932.

ⁱⁱ*The Farmindale Post*, March 3, 1932, "Republican Growth In Nassau County"; October 14, 1932, "Leader States Republican Sentiment Growing Throughout N.Y. State"; November 11, 1932, "Nassau County Steady While Nations Chooses New Deal".

ⁱⁱⁱ*New York Times*, January 9, 1930, "Mayor Abolishes Jobs In Long Beach"; January 10, 1930, "36 City Laborers Lose Long Beach Jobs".

^{iv}*The Hempstead Sentinel*, March 13, 1930, "Welfare Officer Says Charity Work Is Fast Increasing"; *The Hempstead Sentinel*, July 31, 1930, p. 1, "Welfare Officer Sees Many Families

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^{vi}*The Hempstead Sentinel*, October 30, 1930, "Sees Government Should Make Jobs For Unemployed".

^{vii}*The Hempstead Sentinel*, March 17, 1932, "Suggests Government Take On Huge Public Improvement As a Cure for the Depression".

^{viii}*New York Times*, July 27, 1931, "Roosevelt Starts New Road Project".

^{ix}*Nassau Daily Review*, November 9, 1933, "Similarity Noted In Plan Revealed For Big Project".

^x*New York Times*, February 22, 1933, "Job Aid Programs Spurred By Lehman".

^{xi}*Garden City News*, November 23, 1933, p. 7; November 16, 1933, p. 1.

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^{xiii}*Hempstead Sentinel*, August 23, 1934, "School Board Surprised To Hear PWD Is Ready To Loan District \$650,000".

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^{xvi}*Glen Cove Echo*, November 9, 1933, "Mason and Entire Slate Elected By Huge Vote As City Goes Republican".

^{xvii}*Garden City News*, October 11, 1934, "Monster Rally For Robt. Moses At Hempstead".

^{xviii}*Nassau Daily Review*, May 17, 1935, "New Deal Cause of Nation's Ills, Bankers Assert".

^{xix}*Hempstead Sentinel*, October 1, 1935, "Professor Spahr Scores New Deal".

^{xx}*Great Neck Record*, November 26, 1935, "Manhasset Woman Crusades Against The New Deal; Sells Automobile Plates Pointing Out F.D.R. Follies".

^{xxi}*Long Island Sun*, September 18, 1936.

^{xxii}*Great Neck Record*, November 26, 1935, "Great Neck, Manhasset To Receive WPA Funds"; *Great Neck Record*, December 6, 1935, "W.P.A. Classes To Start Here".

^{xxiii}*Long Island Sun*, August 28, 1936; September 4, 1936; September 11, 1936; September 18, 1936; *The Garden City News*, October 8, 1936; *The Farmingdale Post*, October 22, 1936; October 29, 1936; *The Hempstead Sentinel*, October 29, 1936; November 5, 1936.

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