



NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF **THE NATIONAL
NEW DEAL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Lessons From the New Deal – A Blueprint for Renewing American Prosperity and Ingenuity



Johnny Cash's New Deal Story

BY ANDY LONG

Later this year, Johnny Cash will become the latest beneficiary of the New Deal to have his statue placed in National Statuary Hall in the US Capitol. He will be honored not only for his career as an artist but also for his humanitarian work. Cash was a champion of the common person, an ethic he learned growing up in one of the nation's largest New Deal resettlement colonies.

In 1934, the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Agency purchased 16,000 acres of land to create Colonization Project #1, the first New Deal agricultural resettlement project to provide individual farmsteads for colonists. The colony was overseen by the

Arkansas administrator of the WPA William Reynolds Dyess and was renamed in his honor after his death in a plane crash on January 14, 1936. The Dyess (pronounced like Dice) Colony became the home to 487 Arkansas families seeking a fresh start.

Potential colonists from all seventy five Arkansas counties participated in the strict application program. Families were asked about physical limitations, moral character, and political stances. Those families who passed were relocated to twenty-acre farms in Dyess. A small portion of each farm was already cleared, and a house was built on each. Colonists were expected to clear the rest of the acreage and grow cotton, using the profits over the next years to pay back the federal

Above: The Cash family at the dedication of the restored federal administration building in Dyess.

government for the farms.

The first thirteen families arrived in Dyess in October 1934, and the colony was officially dedicated on May 22, 1936. A few weeks after the official dedication, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited Dyess and addressed the colony from the front porch of the federal administration building. After her visit, Roosevelt wrote in her June 11 syndicated newspaper column: "As I looked into their faces as they came by and at the children who slipped around and in and out, I decided they had character and courage to make good
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second edition of our current newsletter series. We hope you're enjoying hearing about New Deal activities in your area or other parts of the country. We thrive on feedback so please write to us with any impressions or questions you may have. And, of course, we welcome any support you may want to send our way.

We are planning some exciting and informative Zoom events beginning this fall. In November we will host board member Bob Leighninger and board president Harvey Smith for a presentation of the upcoming book *How the New Deal Helped Win World War II*, which will explore the myriad and mostly unrecognized ways that the New Deal aided in preparing our country for the effort to preserve democracy against the threats of fascist aggression.

In December we will host board member Chris Breiseth on Zoom to discuss the legacy of Frances Perkins and the exciting developments at the Frances Perkins Center in Maine. The Perkins Homestead is now a National Historic Landmark and is about to be transformed into a historic site that welcomes those who wish to learn about the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and whose legacy is still serving us today.

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Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Remembered

BY CHRISTOPHER BREISETH
AND MARGARET RUNG

They were perhaps the most powerful and influential married couple in the world during the 20th Century. Efforts to memorialize Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt began while they were still in the White House and have continued into the 21st century. Given their leadership during two of the country's most severe crises—the Great Depression and World War Two—these memorials represent a wide variety of images of them, from empathetic advocates of forgotten people to heroic champions of the four freedoms to committed internationalists. While some are static, bricks and mortar memorials, others are “living memorials” that project the values of the Roosevelts into the present and future.

President Roosevelt specified that the only monument to him in Washington should be a desk-sized piece of white marble in front of the National Archives and Records Administration Building with his name, birth and death dates. This apparent modesty was balanced by his giving the nation his home and birthplace in Hyde Park, New York, both to preserve his home (Springwood) for the public and to establish the Franklin D. Roo-

sevelt Presidential Library and Museum to store his presidential papers and personal artifacts. Opened in June, 1941, the Presidential Library was the first dedicated to retaining and making available to scholars the records of a presidential administration. The site also includes the graves of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in his mother's Rose Garden. His home was opened to the public on the first anniversary of his death, April 12, 1946, simultaneous with the issuing of the Roosevelt Dime as the nation's tribute to him, commemorating the March of Dimes, his initiative to fund research to conquer polio. In 1997, President Bill Clinton dedicated the FDR Memorial in Washington, a series of rooms open to the sky, with sculptures of him and Mrs. Roosevelt along with everyday Americans depicted in the 1930s, struggling to deal with the Great Depression. On the walls are extensive quotations from FDR and one from Eleanor commenting on how much his polio had humanized him to deal imaginatively and empathetically with his fellow countrymen suffering from the Great Depression. Appropriately, and after the dedication of this major national memorial, a life-sized statue of FDR sitting in his wheelchair was added at the entrance in

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Johnny Cash's New Deal Story

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when an opportunity offered and at last that opportunity seemed to be within their reach."

The Cash family arrived in March 1935. Ray and Carrie Cash had applied to the colony from the town of Kingsland in south Arkansas. They arrived with five children, including three-year-old J.R. (who would later be known as Johnny). Two more would be born in Dyess.

The Dyess Colony promoted more than just farming. Colonists participated in a number of cooperative activities. There was a hospital, a school and federal offices. There was a home economist who advised colonists on hygiene and home life. There was a cannery that allowed colonists to preserve their produce for the winter and sell the excess. There were at various times a china factory, a toy factory, and a mattress factory. These experiments in cooperative living were among the distinctive features of the colony.

Over time, colonists realized that the twenty acre lots were not enough to make a living. Some colonists left, and other colonists purchased their land, doubling their farms to forty acres. The Cash family did this, and they were able to pay off their debt to the federal government and continue to farm in Dyess. Johnny Cash graduated from Dyess High School in 1950.

While farming continued at Dyess, the cooperative programs did not last. Instead, as the New Deal wound down



Above: Eleanor Roosevelt in Dyess, 1936.

Top right: William Reynolds Dyess.

Right: Colony house being built. Colony houses came in one of eight different styles. In total, roughly 500 houses were built.



Dyess became a normal Southern farming town, albeit one with impressive infrastructure. As mechanized farming became the norm, independent farms throughout the South ceased to be feasible and small towns like Dyess began to decrease in population.

Since 2011, the Historic Dyess Colony: Johnny Cash Boyhood Home has been an Arkansas State University Heritage Site. A-State has restored the Cash Boyhood Home (one of the few original colonist houses still remaining), as well as the colony administration building which serves as a museum for the New Deal

resettlement project. In addition, A-State has rebuilt the theater and pop shop building (from the late 1940s) as a visitor center and has opened an archive building featuring an impressive amount of written records from the colony project.

The Cash family has been instrumental in the restoration process. Johnny Cash's two youngest siblings Joanne and Tommy have clear memories of growing up in the house and have helped the university staff make sure that the furnishings are correct. They have also shared their own oral histories of Dyess. In addition, many members of the Cash family have appeared at the Johnny Cash Heritage Festival, which includes both an academic symposium appropriate for New Deal scholars and a concert raising funds for the restoration project. Two of Cash's children, Rosanne Cash and John Carter Cash have alternated hosting the festival.

The Historic Dyess Colony is one of four Arkansas State University Heritage Sites located in Eastern Arkansas. All four sites taken together tell the story of agriculture in the Delta during the New Deal. The Historic Dyess Colony is located off of I-55, about 45 minutes north of Memphis, Tennessee. It is open to the public from 9-3 Mon-Sat. More information can be found at DyessCash.AState.edu.

All photos courtesy of the Historic Dyess Colony: Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, an Arkansas State University Heritage Site.



The restored Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, now an Arkansas State University Heritage Site.



Roosevelt, New Jersey:

A New Deal Community Continues to Honor Its Heritage

BY MICHAEL TICKTIN,
 NNDPA VICE-PRESIDENT AND
 ROOSEVELT BOROUGH HISTORIAN

Roosevelt, New Jersey, originally the New Deal Subsistence Homesteads community of Jersey Homesteads, was the result of a convergence of developments within the community of Eastern European Jewish immigrants with the New Deal, which made their realization under government auspices possible.

The person most responsible for the establishment of Jersey Homesteads was Benjamin Brown, a Ukrainian Jewish immigrant who learned about agriculture from a farmer named Brown for whom he worked as a young man and to whom he expressed his gratitude by anglicizing his original name (Lifschitz) by changing it to that of the farmer Brown had the idea that the best way to improve the lot of his fellow immigrants from the Russian Empire would be to resettle them in farming communities where they could be productive in a healthy environment and also be able to preserve a secular Yiddish-speaking cultural life. In 1911, he took the lead in founding an agricultural cooperative in Clarion, Utah, a project for which he had the support of the Mormon Church. The project was not successful, however, because it never got the water that it had been promised, something that was quite necessary in that climate. By 1916, Clarion had failed and Brown was back in the East, buying a farm near Hightstown, New Jersey. He was able to set up a successful

business marketing poultry from agricultural cooperatives. He was so successful, in fact, that he became known as “the turkey king of New York.”

Cooperatives, however, remained the main focus of his efforts. In 1928, he went on an agricultural mission to Russia to advise Jewish settlers in Biro-Bidzhan, the near the Chinese border that Stalin had designated as the Jewish national territory--the Jews being the only ethnic group in the Soviet Union without a territory where they were in the majority. While there, he met an agricultural economist from Montana named M. L. Wilson, with whom he became friends. (When we

had a function in Roosevelt for Brown descendants a few years ago, Brown’s youngest son told me that his father had helped Wilson get a train ticket from Moscow to Vladivostok so he could get home.) This friendship was to prove most beneficial five years later when, after FDR became president, one of the first major pieces of legislation to be passed in the first “Hundred Days” was the National Industrial Recovery Act. Title II of that act, included at the personal request of President Roosevelt, authorized the president to establish “subsistence homestead” communities. Brown saw this as a great opportunity to establish an agro-industrial cooperative based on farming, as he had done in Clarion, but also on a garment factory. He went to Washington to see his friend Wilson, who had meanwhile been appointed to head the Division of Subsistence Homesteads in the Interior Department. Not surprisingly, Wilson approved the plan for the community.

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The Resettlement Administration's Greenbelt Town of Greendale, Wisconsin

BY HANS JOHNSON

President Roosevelt spoke in 1932 of the country demanding “bold, persistent experimentation.” The New Deal greenbelt town of Greendale, Wisconsin was certainly that. “They [the greenbelt towns] represented, and still do represent the most daring, original, and ambitious experiments in public housing in the history of the United States,” concluded Paul Keith Conkin, author of *Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program*.”

Greendale was one of only three greenbelt towns created by the Suburban Resettlement Division of the Resettlement Administration. The other two were Greenbelt, Maryland in suburban Washington, D.C., and Greenhills, Ohio, near Cincinnati. Rexford Tugwell, administrator of the Resettlement Administration, thought there should be 3,000 greenbelt towns. These included three additional greenbelt towns at Greendale alone. Others greenbelt towns were planned, but not constructed due to lack of funding, local opposition, and legal challenges.

Tugwell stressed that Greendale’s construction would provide immediate relief jobs. He added that the greenbelt towns would show that comfortable homes could be built for low-income workers. “Most important of all, it is showing how the growth of a great city may be beautiful, orderly and economical,” he concluded.

“Each greenbelt city became a distinct experiment in itself,” writes Conkin, who added that each had its own planning team that was “relatively autonomous.”

The Greendale tract, which is just west of Milwaukee, was well over 3,000 acres, half of which was a surrounding greenbelt of farms and forests. The greenbelt served many objectives. Tugwell explained that it offered a barrier against the ugliness of the city and provided recreation. He added that the town would serve as a market for the farms and residents would benefit from the fresh, local products of the farms.

Greendale ultimately built out to almost 600 units constructed between 1936 to 1938 on almost 200 acres. The average cost of a unit was just over \$349,000 in 2022 dollars (\$16,623 in 1938.) Keep in mind that reflects the cost of purchasing all the land and constructing all the infrastructure and not just the cost of the houses. Almost half were single-family two- and three-bedroom homes, a little over a third were multi-family, and the rest were duplexes of various sizes. Many of the streets were dead-ends. Paths connected the homes to a village park and a community center containing a variety of stores and services.

The minimum income needed to apply to live in the newly constructed homes was just over \$25,000 today (\$1,200 in 1938) and the maximum was around \$46,000 (\$2,200.) Monthly rents along with the utilities ranged from about \$588 (\$28) to \$1,093 (\$52.) The people applying to live in Greendale far exceeded the available units several times over.

Much of the surrounding greenbelt was divided up into over 70 farms ranging from 2 to 240 acres in 1937. Existing buildings were used, although some were modernized. The leased farms were devoted primarily to dairy operations, but there were also truck and poultry farms.

VISITING GREENDALE TODAY

The Historic Greendale Visitor Welcome Center is great place to start a visit. The center has a small museum with photographs and artifacts. Contact them for guided tours. If you wish to self-guide, everything is in walking distance, just as it was designed. There are also a few annual events, contact the center for details. *5680 Broad Street; 414-409-2557.*

For those wishing to spend the night, the Greendale Historical Society does have a unit that they rent out as a vacation rental. *Greendalehistoricalsociety.org* and *director of the Center for New Deal Studies at Roosevelt University.*

Those chosen went through a selection process similar to those applying to live in the village section. “Development of the farm area around Greendale is fundamental in the general plan of the community,” said Sherwood L. Reeder, Greendale’s community manager.

The greatest criticism leveled at Greendale was the high unit cost. When this was coupled with affordable rents it resulted in a situation that was economically unsustainable. The rents simply were not going to pay for the costs of purchasing and constructing Greendale. *continued on page 11*



The Greendale Village Hall

TJ Walker Family History

BY TJ WALKER

When I was growing up in the idyllic coastal region of South Florida, close to the Florida Everglades in the 1960s, like many newcomers I did not realize the coming impact of rapid expansion upon the Florida coast that would occur in the second half of the 20th Century. I lived in an inter-coastal waterway neighborhood that had recently been transformed from a mangrove wetland to a network of Isles and waterways with about a ten-mile-wide mainland between the Ocean and the Everglades. I recall as a boy being fascinated by seeing flocks of high-flying pink flamingos in formation many times in the evening skies along those coastal regions and inland waterways. I lived in what was a newly developed town that did not exist before air conditioners appeared at the start of the 1950s. An ecological sanctuary, well stocked with teams of fish and migratory birds, gradually started to show signs of decline as construction sites and large developments reached all the way to the Everglades as early as the 1970s.

Because of my grandfather, Frank C. Walker, a close advisor to FDR, my father, Thomas Walker, knew the President well. When Dad contracted the polio virus in Montana of fourteen in the summer of 1934, Frank Walker was the New Deal's chief of staff, managing the weekly Executive Council and National Emergency Council meetings. President Roosevelt, who, needless to say, was quite a hero in our family, supervised Dad's recovery in Warm Springs and with swims in the

White House pool while missing school during 1934 and 1935. My dad recovered as a result of the good physical therapy counseling by his presidential friend. Although my dad ended up with a withered leg, he never showed signs of walking with a limp. FDR taught Dad how to walk again and how to disguise his injury. A few years before, in January of 1933, my grandfather traveled to South Florida before the inauguration with the newly elected President and sailed on a pre-inauguration brain-storming cruise to plan and shape what would become the New Deal Legislation during the first 100 days. On July 11, 1933, Frank C. Walker was appointed Executive Secretary (he declined the title of Director) of the Executive Council, coordinating the fifteen new New Deal Agencies with the established Cabinet departments. He helped guide the country's renewal through what was labelled Relief, Recovery and Reform. Walker led the National Emergency Council's emergency planning bodies in each state and in a few regions. Through localized planning bodies on the municipal level, the NEC guided from Washington the New Deal responses in each local NEC planning body. Helping to manage the many new initiatives of the administration, Walker designed the first comprehensive organizational chart for the Federal Government. Few historians have told the story of how Frank Walker, through the bi-weekly Executive Council and National Emergency Council meetings helped co-ordinate the dynamic efforts of the Roosevelt Administration



through its first 1,000 days. Grandpa was also known as the peace maker within FDR's government.

There also has been insufficient attention to what a great friend FDR was to Florida and its wildlife throughout his life. Roosevelt was an advocate of pastoral land stewardship, urging balance to growth management and recreation. He developed this perspective from his education at an early age encouraged by his ancestors in the Hudson Valley of New York. Through his later explorations and fishing expeditions, FDR became fond of and familiar with the coastal wetlands of Florida and the Everglades rivers of grass. He traveled to South Florida many times before and then soon after he was stricken with the Polio virus, before he found the healing waters of Warm Springs and started helping other polio victims through his development of truly innovative rehabilitation techniques. The Roosevelts and the Delano's had long been conservationist families in the Hudson Valley. Young Franklin studied birds, trees and pastoral landscape management on his family's land. His experience and affinity for natural history and exposure to expert conservationists throughout his family's circle of friends and during his early career as a young state senator are notable. As a boy, FDR displayed an unusual interest in birds and worked to halt the extinction of migratory bird species being slaughtered for feathers throughout coastal America. With his regular travels and fishing expeditions throughout the South in the early 20th century he knew well the flyways of

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The Manitou Experimental Forest



Left: Untitled painting by New Deal artist Kenneth Evett located in the "Lodge."

BY BARBARA DIAMOND

North on Highway 67, 28 miles just outside of Woodland Park Colorado are over 16,000 miles of an Outdoor Laboratory for ecological Research and the management of ponderosa pine dominated forests. This Experimental Forest is a part of the U.S. Forest Service.

Originally, (1861–67) this was a small-scale farm. In 1872 Dr. William Bell bought 11,000 acres for grazing, farming, logging, fish hatcheries and resort hotels. For almost 30 years it became known as Manitou Park for reputed health benefits. The dry air and clear water contributed to this.

In 1906 after fires and unsuccessful operations, Dr. Bell and a neighboring land owner General William Palmer deeded 10,635 acres to the Colorado College to create the Colorado School of Forestry.

It wasn't until 1936 that the U.S. Forest Service began ownership of the property augmented with other lands and becomes the Manitou Experimental Forest to study management of Natural Resources of the Colorado Front Range Ponderosa Pine Zone Ponderosa pines are drought tolerant and fire resistant. They are the most economically and ecologically important tree species in the western United States. They also have the widest range of any pine in North America. These pine forests

serve as a home for many wild life species and human communities built within them. Also was the studying grazing and the water sheds.

By 1937–39, as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal Plan to combat the Great Depression, hundreds of men were put to work through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Both groups of these "alphabet workers," as they were known, worked at the Experimental Forest. These workers (all men) were housed in portable camps of tents and barracks across the west side of Highway 67, in what was known as the Painted Rocks area. The WPA workers built seven buildings on the east side of Highway 67: one office, two dorms, (for staff and administrators) two shops, one firehouse and one barn. All the buildings, (still standing and in use) were built from local quarried sandstone. In 1998 several of these WPA buildings were named to the National Register of Historic Places.

In one of the currently used dorms, called the Lodge, are two WPA landscape paintings by Colorado native painter Kenneth Evett (1913–2005) He was a New Deal artist who also received a scholarship to the newly created Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Evett, also taught at Cornell in Ithaca, NY where he died.

The CCC Boys were involved in two studies. Grazing studies: looking at grasses on both sides of the highway. Wheatgrass
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Left: courtesy of USFS: CCC camp Mitigation circa 1936. Right: courtesy of USFS:Guests at the Hotel which was on the property before it became WPA and CCC site.

Franklin and Eleanor Remembered

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response to the initiatives of Americans with disabilities.

The Little White House at Warm Springs, Georgia, where FDR went for rest and recreation, and where he died, is preserved as a Georgia State Park and has an extensive Visitors Center which tells the story of his efforts at rehabilitation for victims of polio, including himself. More recently, on Roosevelt Island in the East River in New York City, opposite the United Nations Building, the Four Freedoms Park, designed by Louis Kahn, the great American architect, was completed, with again a room opened to the sky, with quotations from FDR. As one strolls down a long walkway, framed by linden trees, toward the memorial at the southern end of the island, one is greeted by the famous bust of Franklin Roosevelt by Jo Davidson.



Eleanor Roosevelt's home at Val Kill in Hyde Park includes the cottage built for her in the 1920s and the subsequent more spacious building which had earlier been the Val-Kill furniture factory she and her friends had developed to provide work and skills for the unemployed. Now, like FDR's home, Val Kill is owned and managed by the National Park Service. In addition to visitors, Val Kill is the center for programs for girls, especially leadership training. Mrs. Roosevelt is remembered in New York City by a beautiful statue of her in Riverside Park. Memorably, it sported a pink hat during the Women's March in January 2017. Another statue of her graces the sculpture garden at the United Nations, acknowledging her leadership in the drafting and passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and her fierce support of the organization.

During their lifetimes, the Roosevelts, especially Eleanor, seemed most comfortable with living memorials that would inspire the living to uphold the ideals of the deceased. She and Franklin, for instance, sold the New York City townhomes on 56th Street to a non-profit consortium associated with nearby Hunter College, a place Eleanor visited frequently. In 1943, ER attended a re-open-

ing and dedication of the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, one of a small number of centers at the time committed to interracial and interfaith ideals. Hunter College's Roosevelt House, as the townhomes are now known, is currently a public policy institute that continues to advance the values of Franklin, Eleanor and Sara Roosevelt.

After Franklin died on April 12, 1945, Eleanor was

particularly drawn to educational institutions and other foundations that she felt advanced the ideals for which they fought so valiantly during the Great Depression and World War Two. For example, she became an enthusiastic supporter of a newly established college in Chicago that eschewed racial discrimination. In early 1945, the Central YMCA College Board of Directors forced out the president, Edward Sparling, when he objected to the board's planned implementation of quotas to reduce the numbers of Black and Jewish students, among other groups, at the college. On April 24, 1945, faculty and students walked out of the Central Y College, signing statements that confirmed their commitment to building a university in which admission would be based solely on academic merit. Initially Sparling and the faculty chose the name Thomas Jefferson College for their "equality experiment," but Roosevelt's death led them to appeal to Eleanor Roosevelt for permission to use FDR's name. She not only agreed, but also offered to sit on the col-

lege's board of advisors, bringing in other well-known figures, such as Albert Schweitzer, Marian Anderson, Pearl Buck and Albert Einstein. Edwin Embree, head of the Rosenwald Fund, friend of FDR's and the first chair of the board of trustees, stated that Roosevelt College "embodies the democratic principles to which Roosevelt gave his life – the four freedoms in action." In November 1945, ER laid the cornerstone, dedicating the college to the "enlightenment of the human spirit." She remained on the board until her death in 1962, visiting periodically throughout the 1950s. In 1959, the college renamed itself the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt University. It is the only institution of higher learning in the world named after both Franklin and Eleanor.

Places such as Roosevelt University, with its continued commitment to social justice, live out the legacy of the Roosevelts, as do a number of foundations. Over nearly half a century, three organizations developed to honor Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The first in 1939, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation, was established to raise funds for the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, establishing the precedent that each presidential library should be built and partially sustained with private funds. In 1951 the Four Freedoms Foundation was established and presided over the annual granting of Four Freedoms Medals to outstanding individuals, one year in America, the alternate year in the Netherlands. In 1962-63, to honor Eleanor Roosevelt following her death in November, 1962, President John F. Kennedy and Congress established the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. With the encouragement of their son, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr., the three organizations came together in



1987 to form the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI), led by co-chairs Trude Lash and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and directed by Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel. For two decades it was located at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum before moving to New York City. Continuing to grant the Four Freedoms Medals, FERI also helped establish the Roosevelt Studies Center in Middleburg, the Netherlands (now the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies), and present the FDR International Disability Award at the United Nations. In 2007-2008, FERI merged with the student Roosevelt Institution, including chapters on a growing number of campuses involving thousands of students addressing public policy opportunities. FERI has evolved into a significant public policy think tank in New York City, now known as the Roosevelt Institute, promoting analyses and recommendations for progressive policies to continue the legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Campus Network component continues with chapters on more than 130 campuses with over 10,000 students involved.

Municipalities often honored the Roosevelts by naming parks, high schools, airports, streets, bridges, subway stations, and even towns after them. Sometimes they reflect a general wish to honor Franklin and Eleanor, and other times, they have a special connection to the New Deal or lives of the Roosevelts. For example, Greenbelt, Maryland, built as part of the Resettlement Administration's green town initiative, has Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Roosevelt, New Jersey, originally part of the New Deal's subsistence homestead program, serves as a living reminder of the president's desire to address the needs of the one-third of a nation "ill-housed" during the Great Depression. Eleanor, West Virginia, established in 1934, was one of three resettlement communities in that state. Brooklyn and Hyde Park, places associated with FDR, have high schools named after him. Public Works Administration funds enabled the construction of the Hyde Park school. A high school in Dallas bearing his name opened in 1963, and despite Brown v. Board of Education, was designed to serve the Black community. In a nod to the famous resident living in the area, the Mid-Hudson Bridge near Hyde Park and the bridge connecting Campobello Island



to Maine are named after FDR.

Of course, World War II encouraged Americans and the Allies to memorialize the Roosevelts, likely making FDR one of the most honored Americans abroad. War-related dedications at home began almost immediately after his death in 1945, with communities, such as Sugar Notch, PA, a mining town near Wilkes-Barre, placing Roosevelt's name and a gold star at the top of its wartime honor roll. Three years later, ER drove to Sugar Notch to unveil a memorial to the fallen president near the town's court house. When she heard the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" played during the service, she said that she was transported back to the dedication of her husband's statue in London's Grosvenor Square, when the same song was performed. FDR is also honored in the former Soviet Union with a statue and street named for him in Yalta.

Many nations, either allied, occupied, or in otherwise complex relationships to the United States during the war have also dedicated streets to FDR. Prague, Belgrade, Paris, and Poznań, Poland all have roads named after him. After the war, French leaders quickly renamed the Parisian Avenue Victor-Emmanuel III (the Italian King allied with France during World War I but then on the opposing side in World War II) for Franklin D. Roosevelt. They then placed FDR's name on a nearby major metro station. Austria, an extension of Germany during the war, and then occupied by Allied forces at the end, has Rooseveltplatz in Vienna. As a nod to the Big Three conference held there, Tehran named a street after FDR, only to remove it at the conclusion of the Iranian

Revolution of 1979. Similarly complex is the naming of Roosevelt Road in Taipei, Taiwan, a lengthy artery that connects the city core to southern districts and suburbs. It has the distinction of being the only road on the island named after a westerner (a highway named after MacArthur was later renamed). Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek, part of the Great Four during the war, unsurprisingly wanted to honor Roosevelt, but the Chinese Revolution forced Chiang out of Mainland China and onto Formosa (Taiwan), an island that had actually been under Japanese rule during the war and the target of Allied bombing raids. While the road name has survived, present-day Taiwanese have a tangled relationship to both Chiang Kai-shek and World War II history.

As Eleanor reflected in 1948, these memorials "in different parts of the world, to a man whom the people of various nations have felt was a personal friend in times of trouble, are reminders not of that man alone but of the things for which he stood." Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt understood that as public servants, their image and ideals would be commemorated, not always in ways that they could control. Ultimately, they hoped that these memorials would not amount to hero-worship, but would inspire individuals to pursue the democratic values to which they had selflessly devoted their adult lives to promoting.

Christopher Breiseth was the CEO & President of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute from 2001-2008.

Margaret Rung is a professor of history and Director of the Center for New Deal Studies at Roosevelt University.

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Between Wilson's approval and the actual implementation and construction, however, there were many steps that needed to be taken. Several plans for construction of the community were reviewed and discarded, until the government finally hired Alfred Kastner, a German-Jewish immigrant with extensive experience in public housing. Kastner hired as his assistant, Louis Kahn, who would go on to be one of the most prominent American architects of the 20th century. Kastner redesigned the layout of the lots so as to create public land behind the houses. These public lands, now mostly wooded, are one of the outstanding features of Roosevelt today.

Another important problem was the opposition to the project of David Dubinsky, the powerful head of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who was totally opposed to any plan that would relocate garment workers from New York City, even if, as in this case, they would be working in a factory subject to a union contract. Brown's original plan, which was unacceptable to Dubinsky, would have had a private company operate the factory until the workers were ready to take over management themselves. That deadlock was only broken when the Subsistence Homesteads program was moved to the Resettlement Administration under Rexford Tugwell, a firm believer in cooperatives, and it was agreed that the factory would be a cooperative from its inception. (Given that the factory only lasted for two years, and received government subsidies for both of those years, that decision would not appear to have been well-advised, but there was no alternative as long as FDR wanted Dubinsky's consent.)

In any event, the project was constructed in 1935-36 and the first residents moved in in July, 1936. The factory had already been built, so their jobs awaited them. The project included 200 houses, though only 120 wound up being occupied by members of the factory and farm cooperatives and the rest were rented to other tenants. On May 29, 1937, the governor signed an act of the Legislature incorporating the community as the Borough of Jersey Homesteads.

In 1944, a subdivision map was pre-



pared and in 1946, as part of a general federal program of selling off New Deal rental housing, the properties were offered for sale to the residents, with veterans having the next right to purchase if the residents declined to do so, and the housing then being offered for sale to the general public.

Meanwhile, in 1945, the residents of Jersey Homesteads voted overwhelming to rename the community the Borough of Roosevelt, in honor of the recently-deceased president to whom the borough owed its creation.

Roosevelt today continues to honor its origins. We have tours showing visitors the Ben Shahn mural in the school, with its story of persecution of Jews in Europe, immigration to America, working in the garment industry and the labor move-



ment, and culminating in the establishment of Jersey Homesteads, with Alfred Kastner shown explaining the site plan of the community to a group of people involved in the labor movement in some capacity, namely labor columnist Heywood Brown, David Dubinsky, Senator Robert F. Wager (author of Social Security and of the "Magna Carta of Labor"), Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union head Sidney Hillman, and CIO official John Brophy. Outside the school, in the amphitheater, we have a bust of FDR that was designed by Ben Shahn and sculpted by his son, Jonathan. It was dedicated in June, 1962 in the presence of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in what was to be, to best of our knowledge, her last public appearance before her death the following November.

Manitou Experimental Forest

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was found to be the most beneficial to cows and best for erosion.

The second study, the Watershed Study, examined sedimentation rates on the east side of the highway. Other studies examined water runoff and soil erosion in response to grazing and logging.

All of this research was for the lower elevation of the Colorado Rockies front range – The Ponderosa Pine and Grass Ecosystem.

Their Mission Statement is as follows :

To serve and benefit society by developing and communicating the scientific information and technology needed to manage, protect, use and sustain the natural resources of forests and range lands.

By the late 1970s the studies included the rehabilitation of abandoned croplands and the optimization of cattle grazing. The watershed studies continued. New studies focused on ponderosa pine seed produc-

tion and regeneration, and the flammulated owl.

Current Research: it is an Outdoor Lab for researchers and graduate students studying within 17,000 acres of the lower elevation of the Colorado Rockies front range Ponderosa Pine and Grass ecosystem. These people are housed in the historic lodge.

An important note: in 2002 the largest wildfire in recorded Colorado history (The Hayman Fire) burned over 1000 acres of the Experimental forest. In the years that followed, researchers studied the short and long term effects of this disaster.

There are 12 field laboratories throughout parts of the Great Basin, Southwest, Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains, There are 14 Experimental Stations in seven states.

All contents provided by the U.S. Forest Service.

TJ Walker Family History

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herons, egrets and pelicans. He also observed the threats that overhunting had on many species. He encouraged mitigation and protection efforts through such measures as hunting licenses and stamps to establish boundaries and controls for hunting. I believe FDR was a visionary, understanding the threats from future sprawl upon the sensitive migration zones throughout the East Coastal regions. As soon as he became president, he ordered the expansion of biological surveys of such sensitive regions, and he constantly studied maps in his efforts to mitigate the devastating impacts likely to occur in the future along both of Florida's coasts which he had often encountered as a sailor and a young explorer.

I grew up as a witness, during the 1960s and 1970s to the disappearance of the flamingoes and the dwindling of the waterbirds and pelicans a few short generations after Franklin Roosevelt's life, because of the real estate boom occurring up and down the burgeoning Intercoastal waterway communities of Florida. The growth boom started with numerous dredge and fill operations that virtually overnight destroyed a centuries-old Mangrove and sensitive biological coastal wetland ecology. I witnessed how this constant development eventually encroached upon the Everglades and instantly converted coastal wetlands and inland water recharge areas to developable land built upon layers of detritus black muck and sugar sandy soil. FDR had seen the impact of such real estate booms in many major metropolitan areas resulting in threats to recreation, sensitive ecosystems and species extinction. President Roosevelt advocated expansion of the U. S. Biological Survey and warned about the impact of uncontrolled development on sensitive natural areas. Thank goodness that FDR during the early 20th Century gained valued exposure to mangrove swamps with rooks of flamingoes, herons and waterfowl. He clearly had an appreciation for the web of biological relationships that would be threatened in the rapid destruction of mangroves which were transformed into lots for houses, newly paved highway systems and shopping centers with the future sprawling Florida coastal growth. Needless to say, in

one generation from my grandfather's day and his support of FDR as the early coordinator of the New Deal, I witnessed for myself, without realizing until it was too late, the disappearance of flamingoes over and along the flyways of my boyhood life. I am thankful that Franklin Roosevelt had the vision to see this exhaustive land management and real estate boom coming and listened to Marjorie Stoneman Douglas of Miami, Florida, and helped save large stretches of the natural ecosystems through the creation of the Everglades National Park. Thank you, Mr. Roosevelt...

Greenbelt Town of Greendale, WI

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tional land would not have had to be purchased nor would certain infrastructure have to be built (fire and police stations for instance.) if Greendale were built to contain the four towns that Tugwell envisioned. If they had been built, the unit costs in the additional towns would have been lower.

Much changed in the aftermath World War Two's end in 1945. A major economic problem now was dealing with an acute housing shortage. Congress wanted to be rid of the greenbelt towns, including Greendale.

After some unsuccessful attempts by groups to buy the community, the Green-

President's Message

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Our January Zoom event will focus on the Dyess Colony New Deal resettlement community and boyhood home of the legendary singer Johnny Cash. [more detail to come from Linda]

Be sure to follow our website for updates on the precise dates and times of these presentations or sign up for our email list for a reminder. Membership in the National New Deal Preservation is always welcomed and a great way to insure you're always informed about upcoming events.

dale units were offered for individual sale starting in 1951. The greenbelt acreage was sold off a few years later and parts of it were already being converted to subdivisions by the mid-1950s. But Tugwell had always planned for the Federal government to turn Greendale over to its residents, albeit as an intact community.

Having said that, anyone residing in or visiting Greendale can judge for themselves how the experiment turned out and what sort of legacy President Roosevelt created here.

Hans Johnson is a New Deal enthusiast living in Naples, Florida.



A Greendale house today

Please Consider Joining or Re-Joining with Us

Dear NNDPA Members and Friends, We are a non-profit, tax-exempt 501-c-3 organization and hope you will join us in achieving our goals of preserving New Deal treasures. If you are a member who has not renewed your annual dues, we hope you will do so now. All payments are tax-deductible under U.S. Tax law.

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