Pathological Laboratory

Name: Franklin D. Roosevelt  Date: January 9, 1939

Material Submitted: Well water

Diagnosis:
- 0 bacteria per c.c.
- Negative B. coli 1 & 10 c.c.
- Very satisfactory

Lab. No. M/3305

[Signature]
Director
January 16, 1930.

Dear Mr. Bie:

I have not had a chance before this to thank you for your letter. I am delighted with all you have done in and around the house. I think it is all right for you to go ahead with the flooring as you suggest. I hope the electric light poles will be put in soon and that the electricity can be turned on. I am, of course, very happy that you and Mrs. Bie like it in the house.

With my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Christian Bie, Esq.,
Haughton House,
 Hyde Park, New York.
The Haughton house Dec 29, 1938.

My dear Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Many thanks for the check and letter dated December 7. I would like to explain what has been done in and around the house up till date. In the kitchen I have built a cabinet and a couple of counter cabinets. Wooden step instead of the rough stones that led in to the kitchen. Also a cement walk from and around the water tank. Cemented all the cracks in the foundation. That has made the cellar waterproof. Also taken down the cornhouse, and stored the lumber in the barn. On a second look, I am sorry to say, the lumber was not as good as I thought it would be, but I have started out the best and from that made a new bathroom floor. As my next suggestion I would like very thankful to hear from you.

I am referring to the floors. The other day, I measured how much lumber it should take to cover the first floor. The hall from the kitchen, dining room, front entrance and the sitting room. Floors for that part of the house, can be
laid in 7/8" x 2 1/4" comb grain fur for $175.00 or maybe a little less. That included: Lumber, shellack, undercoat and nails. I will give it a finish in golden brown that will last many years. If you P.K. this I will start right after the New Year. May I mention that Mrs. Du and I are very happy here.

Best sincerely wish you a very happy New Year!

Respectfully yours,

Christian Sie
Received payment from
Christian Ride for 8 days' work
at $2.50 a day.
Total $20.00

Earl Duffer
January 31, 1939.

Dear Mr. Van Wagner:

The President asks me to thank you for your letter and to tell you that he is glad you have been able to do some of the work on Mr. Smith's house.

Enclosed you will find check for $185.00.

The President sends you his best wishes and looks forward to seeing you when he gets home early in the Spring.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. James Van Wagner,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York,
Jan. 21, 1939
Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

Received your other check, thank you very much, and have paid all of the remaining bill on the other job. The weather has permitted me to do some of the work at Mose Smith's. I have enclosed the back porch, broad under kitchen floor, laid oak floor in dining room and kitchen, (which is a great improvement in looks & warmth) fixed roof, and put on ridge boards and as soon as we get a few warm days will fit the cornish on the house. It will not be advisable to paint barn roof until we get more warm days, but will do it as soon as weather permits. Mose is well pleased with the work done.
I'm sorry I can't wait until I finish all the work before I have to send for some money, but I have no other income except from this work.

Will you please send a check for work and material done $185, or hoping to see you in the spring and to get more work repairing your building? Sam

Yours Sincerely
Jas. Van Wagner
MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Representatives of the Procurement Division and the Post Office Department visited Poughkeepsie on Monday, January 30, 1939, for the purpose of exploring further the objectives sought in widening Market and Union Streets and the creation of a park on the old Post Office site.

They interviewed the Postmaster, Mr. Lavery, as well as Mayor Spratt and certain observations can be made from these contacts.

Messrs. Lavery and Spratt are apparently anxious to do anything possible in revamping this old property but if a referendum of the citizens is required it appears doubtful that sanction would be given to an expenditure program as evidenced by the formation of a new tax association and the voting down of two bond issues for new schools.

The council which would have to act on any transaction is frequently hostile to the recommendations of the Mayor.

Both Messrs. Lavery and Pratt think that the pavement should be widened on Union Street and this can readily be done, say, five feet additional as the pedestrian traffic is not heavy on this thoroughfare. But they both think that the pavement width on Market Street is satisfactory and that widening the space in front of the Post Office would not greatly relieve conditions at the intersection. It appears that a Parkway is under construction which skirts the City and this, it is presumed, will divert from Market Street a considerable portion of the traffic between New York City and Albany. While no program is in mind at this time it is not improbable that some bypass route will be found for the trucks through the City which will take them away from Market Street.

The Mayor expressed the opinion that he would like to do "some thinking and talking about the subject" before he could indicate what the possibilities were and the Postmaster has agreed to write us a letter indicating what will be the next step.

This is the nature of the progress report and I will be glad to inform you when I hear further from the local Postmaster.
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Houghton House,
March 7, 1939.

As I now have completed the floor, I would like you to thank you for the lumber.
They have improved the house considerably.
I hope you can honor us with a visit in the spring so you can see the house.

There is in the house since last fall. On my last letter to you written in December, I sent with it a bill amounting to $20.00.
It was money spent for labor by a young man from East Park, which I hired to help one. I wish you appreciate it very much if you send me a check.

Sincerely yours,

Christian Pie
March 17, 1939.

Dear Nelson:

Thank you for yours of March thirteenth. I am glad the planting will soon begin at Hyde Park, and I hope to be up there fairly early in April for a day or two.

That is an excellent preface. I have duly signed it and return it herewith. I am most anxious to see the little booklet.

Always sincerely,

Professor Nelson C. Brown,
State Forestry College,
Syracuse,
New York.

(Enclosure)
Community forests are an old and popularly accepted part of forest conservation. They have helped for many years to reduce local taxes by yielding profitable timber crops. They have also provided other benefits, such as watershed protection, outdoor recreation, shelter for bird and beast, and permanent jobs through the sustained production of cordwood, posts, telephone poles, railroad ties, Christmas trees, pulpwood, and logs for lumber.

I believe more of our communities could profit economically, socially, and spiritually by ownership and operation of their own forests close at home. I am in favor of more and better community forests. Development of such local forests would be an important step in the rebuilding of our natural resources and would provide additional outdoor playgrounds for the children of America.

I am very glad to endorse the Forest Service program to establish and maintain more community forests.

(SIGNED) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

[Handwritten note: Org. returned to Professor Brown 9/12/39]
March 11, 1939

Dear Mac:

Please pass this on to the President when convenient and agreeable. Many thanks.

I hope you are very much better and are around again and enjoying your usual good health.

Nelson C. Brown.
My dear President Roosevelt:

It seems likely that the planting season at Hyde Park will start early this spring. As I wrote you recently, we are planning to go ahead with planting 20,000 Norway spruce and 2000 each of red pine, European larch, and white pine. I have been in correspondence with Mr. Plog, and both Professor Heiberg and I will run down to see how everything lines up both before and during the planting season this spring. The Kelsey Company will replace the beech trees, and 100 Oriental chestnut will be planted.

You may recall your interest in community forests. In your last letter you asked me to keep you in touch with the progress of the government bulletin. It is ready to go to press. As indicated in your letter and as suggested by you last fall, we have prepared a tentative form of foreword for your signature. The publication will be well illustrated and popular in its approach. If you want to see the proposed publication you can secure a copy of it from Silcox in the Forest Service. The bulletin is almost entirely educational and promotive in its nature. There should be more and better community forests in this country. They have proved to be the most popular, successful, and profitable phases of the entire forestry movement in many parts of Europe. Your support of the program by signing a foreword to this bulletin will give it a great forward push. We hope you will sign the enclosed form, making such changes as you think best, and return it to me or directly to Silcox. It has been prepared jointly by the Forest Service people and myself.

With best regards and good wishes,

Sincerely,

NELSON C. BROWN

P.S. The two reprints attached tell the story briefly. The Forest Service has received more than 20,000 requests for information about community forests. N.O.E.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
COMMUNITY FORESTRY: A NEGLECTED PHASE OF THE AMERICAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

By NELSON C. BROWN
New York State College of Forestry

In Europe community forests are a fact accomplished. In the United States little progress has been made in the development of such forests. Last summer Prof. Nelson C. Brown had an opportunity to study community forests in Europe. He is now engaged by the Forest Service to explore the possibilities of community forests in the United States. The extent to which European communities have undertaken the development of community forests and their financial and recreational possibilities will be of special interest to American foresters.

To chronicle the events that have led to the achievement of the system of community forests* in Europe would make an interesting story to all interested in American forest conservation. It would furnish a pattern that might well be followed in the United States. We have developed a magnificent system of national forests and parks, and our program of state forests and parks is well organized on the pathway of progress.

But we have accomplished relatively little in the field of town and community forests. True, in some New England states, and under helpful initiative and guidance in other states, some forward progress may be noted. Wisconsin has made a promising beginning in county forests. Some abandoned farms have been purchased for community forests at a cost of from $5 to $10 or less per acre. There are reported to be more than 1,000 community forests in 27 states, the largest numbers being in New York, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Michigan, Vermont, and North Carolina. Altogether, however, their possibilities and potentialities have been scarcely touched.

We need a better balance of publicly-owned forests and those owned by communities should be greatly increased.

While the history and development of these forests abroad are different from those which may be established here, the basic principles underlying the ownership, operation and objectives of this type of forest administration are directly applicable here.

In Switzerland 66 per cent, and in Bulgaria more than one-half of the total forest area is owned by communities, principally little villages, towns and cities in the forested districts. In both Germany and in France, 20 per cent of all the forested area is in this type of ownership. Most of the Black Forest is owned by the villages and cities within its confines. About 48 per cent of the forest area of the State of Baden is similarly owned. In the State of Hesse, there are 2,000 separate communities, 1,300 of which own and operate their own forests.

The famous Silvawald, near Zurich, Switzerland, and the forests of Baden-Baden, Heidelberg, and the great city park of Berlin, known as the Grunewald, are well-known examples of the profitable operation of community forests for financial revenue, outdoor recreation, employment, and aesthetic values. We have drawn a sharp distinction between forest and park management and administration in this country. There is the same love of

*Community forests are also known as municipal, city, and town forests, town woods, village and communal forests. They may be operated for schools, educational and charitable institutions, or for other group enterprises.
This is all very well and proper, and people are willing to pay the price. But much of this expense is mounting. Taxes are becoming increasingly burdensome. What would our citizens think of shrinking instead of expanding tax bills that must be met from the bank account of every family? Many European forests yield sufficient revenues to pay a good part—in some cases all—of the annual budget for municipal expenses. We pride ourselves on being a practical people. Possibly we are too commercial. But haven't we overlooked a “good bet” in the development of American forestry? Have we neglected a phase of the subject that may pay the largest dividends per acre or per capita or per family in pleasure and profit?

The development of community forestry in Europe represents a long process of planning and accomplishment dating back to feudal times. But Rome was not built in a day. It is not too early to focus our attention on an important and most promising, and perhaps neglected, phase of planning for future development.

Civic pride is a powerful factor in Europe. It is very pronounced and firmly entrenched in many sections of the United States. It is the bulwark of strong public opinion that enabled many communities in Europe to formulate and maintain these forests. Each citizen is a stockholder in them and they are close at hand. He has personal pride and pleasure in this forest maintained for his financial profit, and for the enjoyment of himself and his family. Many organizations in the United States are seeking outlets for their civic pride in making their communities happier and richer. Many other groups could well further this movement.

Advantages of Community Forests

The advantages of community forests may be summarized as follows:

1. Definite and assured financial returns from forest management operations. Community forests in Europe have proven to be a very profitable enterprise. This may be the most important single objective. In many parts of Europe, the citizenry is relieved of partial or in many cases the entire burden of taxation for municipal operations and maintenance. With the rising tide of municipal taxes, this program may be well considered, particularly by the smaller villages and communities located in forested districts and where the most profitable utilization may be enjoyed. As a source of future timber crops of high value, close to markets, they enjoy great possibilities.

2. Recreational opportunities may be greatly expanded and their values may be preserved at little, if any, cost to the people of these communities. We need better and more recreational facilities close to home for low-income families. The time element in travelling to recreational areas is important because these groups may have no extended vacations or weekends, holidays, and late afternoons may be the only opportunities for outdoor relaxation. The automobile with its low-cost transportation and attractive highways is carrying our people great distances for their recreational outings. But this means considerable time and expense to enjoy these facilities. We need more winter and water sports and recreational facilities near living centers. The importance given to skiing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, and other winter sports in the North and Southeast has been increasing. Not only swimming and boating, but golf and archery, as well as hunting and fishing, are facilities that should be encouraged and developed. Forest operations and park objectives are successfully maintained and achieved in Europe on the same general areas. Forests are profitable, parks are expensive. The two are happily combined with no prejudice or interference with the development of each objective.

3. Aesthetic features are not destroyed or endangered. Trees along trails, highways, and in glens and about lakes are maintained in their native and wilderness condition. Those who love the forest for its beauty and its sentimental and perhaps scientific features do not have their sensibilities shocked as one might reason-

nature, respect for the scenic and beautiful, and regard for the preservation and non-commercialization of the many beauty spots and scenic treasures in Europe as in the United States. Many in this country would seriously deplore the very thought of combining exploitation with recreation, beauty and the things we hold dear on the same general areas. And no one ever thought of cutting trees in the many beautiful city parks found throughout the nation. But there are many areas immediately surrounding many of our smaller communities that would make admirable locations for this combined forest-park idea. Baden-Baden, a city of 30,000 people, has an annual visitation of 90,000 people who come for the curative properties of the waters, scenic beauties, and recreational pleasures of that delightful Black Forest center. And yet it is one of the most profitable and most beautifully managed forests to be seen anywhere in Europe. The net profit in 1937 was about $125,000 from 13,500 acres. Moreover, there is no outcry of exploitation, commercialization, or feeling that any of the recreational and aesthetic values are being jeopardized or endangered.

The current era in the progress of American forestry may be envisioned in retrospect as one of great expansion of publicly-owned forests and parks. The demands for recreational outlets are being properly considered, and future generations will bless us for the advance of forest and park expansion which has signaled recent years. Wilderness areas are receiving attention, and very properly should. Because of our excellent system of highways and inexpensive automobile transportation, over 30 million people are enjoying the National Forests and many more millions the National and State Parks. But close at home, we need greater outlets for winter and water sports, golf, fishing, and all the things that go with outdoor recreation.
ably expect. There is not the sharp delineation of viewpoint between park and forest objectives in Europe. We should look to the forest for aesthetic, as well as recreational and commercial values.

4. Define and assure fuelwood supply for the citizenry. While this may be important in some restricted rural sections of this country, this is exceedingly important in many European villages, particularly in southern Germany, eastern France and Switzerland where other forms of fuel are not closely available and, therefore, exceedingly expensive. Wood fuel will always be an important product in many forested sections of this country and if unemployment continues, the provision of adequate fuel supplies for warmth and cooking for the poorer classes at little or no cost may be an important feature. Thus our poorer classes may be assured an abundant and low-cost fuel supply.

5. These forests may provide steady employment for large numbers of men and be available as "work reservoirs" during economic depressions. In Europe, the principal occupational effort is in cutting, thinning, logging and transporting wood products. Large numbers are also employed in tree planting, road construction, improvements and repairs, fire protection and many other features of woods work. The ratio of permanent employees is generally one man for each 50 to 100 acres and in fully developed 24 to 30 acres. Special projects may require large numbers of the unemployed for temporary periods. Technological unemployment may continue to be a current problem in this country. If so, provision must be made for the employment of large numbers of people. As the Civilian Conservation Corps program resulted in greatly stimulating and expanding our system of state parks and forests, so it may provide for development of work on municipal forests as it has on other forms of public properties. If the unemployment problem continues, community forests may offer very definite outlets for profitably employing large numbers of idle men. Through steady employment comes greater stabilization of community life in contrast to the transitory nature of many of our forest communities in the past.

6. The city may control the real estate policies and extensions of residential districts. Modern trends are definitely toward better city planning. These objectives can be adequately served. Many of our communities are "a hodge-podge of growing up like Topay." The acquisition of nearby areas at relatively low costs may assist local planning commissions to provide a permanent real estate policy which means more stable, better appearing and more attractive communities. Village-owned forests may lie on the outskirts and environs of communities and nearly every family owning an automobile, has the tendency to "spread out" in planning the location of a new home.

7. They may be purchased or organized at relatively low capital expenditures. The investment position may be most favorable. Advantage should be taken advantage to tax reversion or idle or abandoned farm land and unproductive or unsightly, eroding areas wherever available. With the depressed condition of agriculture and the trends from rural to city living, advantage should be taken of any opportunities for acquisition of these lands.

8. The state forest in each state can provide leadership, direction and stimulation in the organization and management of these municipal properties. Fortunately, the management of many of our city park systems and state forests is not jeopardized by political interference. The state forester could give direction, cohesion and stability in the formulation and evolution of plans for municipal forests. In some states as in Massachusetts, forestry associations may be of great assistance in lending support in public education and in stimulating activity on the part of local leaders. The advantages of direction through central leadership in the state forestry office may be the determining factor in the success of a program of community forests in any state.

They may serve as combined demonstration forests and parks to the people who own them. Citizens of European communities are tremendously proud of their local forests. They are efficiently managed, and the people enjoy great educational advantages, particularly the various youth movements who may use these forests as laboratories for observation or for camping or picnicking and the study of wildlife, insects, botany and other aspects of forest life. Thus the citizenry may obtain splendid educational advantage from demonstrating the benefits of forestry and conservation to both young and old.

10. An adequate, pure and assured flow of water for drinking purposes, as well as for irrigation or other storage purposes, may be the most important single objective in some communities. Already many areas have been acquired and planted for this single purpose.

11. Continuity of plan and purpose are assured. Individuals cannot wait until timber crops mature, but counties, villages and cities can do so because of their permanence.

12. These areas also may be used for growing trees to be used in street and park planting, for growing Christmas trees as well as partially for pasture, as a source of gravel or other by-products, or the gathering of nuts, berries and mushrooms, which in several European forests are of considerable importance. Communities may take advantage of free or low-cost trees for planting supplied by state nurseries. The revenues from fishing and hunting privileges are important sources of income in nearly all German and Swiss forests. The very essence of sustained-yield management and multiple purpose forestry are served by them.

Favorable Conditions

Conditions under which municipal forests may be initiated and managed may be summarized as follows:

1. Where cheap land, either forested at present or capable of yielding a satisfactory growth, may be acquired. Tax-reverted lands, idle and abandoned farms, eroding hillside, and unproductive or waste land are suggested important possibilities.

2. Large areas owned by small communities. The most successful examples of community forests in Europe are those small villages which own relatively large areas of timberland in their vicinities. Here, the per capita yield from the sale of forest products or the profit per family may be greatest and, therefore, the relief from tax burdens may be most favorable.

3. Locations near or adjacent to favorable markets. Profitable utilization and successful marketing are the keynote of commercial success in the operation of these forests in Germany, Switzerland, and France. Thus, there is stabilization of employment and community living. In most of these communities, local industries consume the larger portion, if not all, of the timber products from the forest.

4. Locations in natural forest regions. Nearly every community in Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, especially in the forested districts, own their own forests. This is notably true in the Voges of eastern France, the Black Forest, Odemwald, Boehmerwald, and throughout the States of Baden, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, and Saxony. But even in the Middle West groves of natural or planted woods are needed for the many benefits that may accrue from them.

5. Combined state and local supervision. In Germany, expenses of operation are minimized by state supervision. If
the areas are not sufficiently large, the state foresters could lend direction, assistance, and the benefit of technical guidance until the local administration can be sufficiently developed and the purchased areas sufficiently expanded to justify local forestry administration.

6. Sequence of developments. The park idea may be the most forceful and popular motive behind the initial stages of the project. People readily understand parks and their objectives but the idea of a working and profitable forest, at least, in its initial stages (when financial income may be impossible) has not yet sufficiently penetrated the conscience of the average citizen. Valuable mature timber may not be acquired at first, because of the expense involved. Many may be started as reforestation projects, perhaps for watershed or erosion protection or to improve the condition or appearance of waste or idle land. A recreational development may appeal best, at first. When the growing plantation or natural timber reaches commercial sizes, financial revenues will come. Thus there will be a gradual emergence of the "forest for profit" idea—a combination of forest and park. But no restrictions should be made to prevent future cutting and marketing of the standing timber.

COMMUNITY FOREST POSSIBILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Among a number of impressions gathered on a recent study of community forests in Europe, the following observations may be of interest as throwing additional light upon the possibility of introducing this subject in the United States:

In Europe community forests are the outgrowth of the ancient "village common" idea—that is, common ground used for pasture and fuel for warmth and cooking before coal was discovered and used. These original objectives have almost disappeared in some parts of Europe. Now they are principally operated for:

1. Profit and
2. Recreation

with preponderant emphasis on financial revenues. The old feudal right of peasants to gather free firewood and other forms of fuel wood still exists in many sections.

1. Community forests may be acquired by: A. Purchase; B. By gift as a memorial to some outstanding citizen, to honor war veterans or an historic event. They may be denoted by some public-spirited citizen interested in the improvement of the appearance and the possibilities of profit from the operation of areas on the hillsides adjacent to these communities; C. Bequest in wills of lands or funds to be made available for these purposes; D. Transferring community-owned farms, waterworks, reservoirs, or tax-reverted lands into this type of forest operation.

2. Profitable utilization through successful marketing of the wood product is the keynote of financial success. In Europe it has been demonstrated that local outlet present the most profitable form of utilization. Frequently small sawmills or other industries are established to utilize the flow of logs from these forests. Sometimes these industries are supplied with sawlogs from a combination of community, private and state forests. Occasionally, a local business, such as furniture, woodenware, shoe last, novelties, etc., may be developed or expanded as an outlet for the principal products. Farm timbers, posts, poles, bridge planks and stringers, hayracks or other specialized forms may yield attractive revenues, whereas the conversion of sawlogs into the usual forms of lumber may not prove to be so profitable because of competition from outside sources. Frequently the forester's experience in utilization problems is the deciding factor in the profitability of the operation. Utilization phases usually command about 80 to 90 per cent of the time of all the permanent workers in the forests.

3. A small initial investment has often resulted ultimately in large annual revenues. From a few typical community forests visited in 1937, the net income per capita ranged from $2.20 to $11.57. The income per family varied generally from $11 to more than $60 per annum which is more than sufficient to pay the average family tax bill. Expended in revenue or net income per acre, this varies from about $3.50 up to $15.50 per acre and in unusual cases still higher. A little village (of 535 souls) in Bavaria which owns 413 acres of dark, rich, lush spruce forest so typical of that region produces an annual cut equivalent to 242,000 board feet. This yields a net annual profit of $6,800 which is a net income per capita of $12.71, an income per family of $65.55 and a net income per acre of $16.46. This forest employs six men permanently and the acreage per employee is 69.

4. In Europe, the area of community forests varies from as small as 63 acres up to more than 62,500 acres as in the case of Berlin which is the largest single owner of municipal forest in the world. In a typical ranger district among rural communities in Bavaria, the average size of 41 community forests was 188 acres. They generally vary from about 100 acres to 1,000 acres. As indicated elsewhere, the ideal forests are those of the small villages which own relatively large areas of timberland. Thus, the net income per citizen or per family may be unusually high under these conditions, particularly if the income per acre is favorable.

5. In these days of forward looking plans and with the vast array of state, county and local planning boards, the formulation of community forests may have an important bearing upon the trends in real estate, traffic, housing and commercial expansion. Community forests fit in admirably with city planning.

6. In France and Germany and other European countries, forest operations on several types of ownership are supervised from a single headquarters. With the expansion of our state forestry organizations into districts, it may be possible to assist and advise in the formulation and operation of many community forests. They should "head up" under the state forester. For example, in one district forest headquarters in Germany known as a Forstamt, supervision is exercised over
three types of ownership consisting of community, state and private forests. There are about 21,000 acres of forest land in the entire district of which 7,713 are community, 4,915 state and 8,338 private forests.

7. Community forests reflect the system, orderliness and efficiency as well as the civic-mindedness and pride which generally characterize the German people. They regard them as a part of their personal property and heritage. These forests pay as they grow—and accumulate value like money at interest in a savings bank. These local, "home-town" forests will awaken a keener appreciation and deeper understanding of the meaning of forestry to our people.
PROGRESS IN COMMUNITY FORESTS

By NELSON C. BROWN
New York State College of Forestry

Some years ago considerable interest existed in the establishment and development of community forests. During more recent years there appears to have been a slump in this interest. It is extremely gratifying, therefore, that the U. S. Forest Service is attempting to revive interest in community forests. The following article by Professor Nelson C. Brown reviews the progress made to date in community forest development in the United States.

COMMUNITY forests are the most popular, profitable, and successful phase of the forestry program in many sections of Europe. They present a proud record of accomplishment. Some American foresters traveling through Europe have brought back impressions and some records from many of the Swiss, German, French, and other municipal forests abroad.

The success of the movement in Europe has had reverberations in this country. The idea has taken root. Community forests are definitely increasing in number, area, and in public favor in the United States.

There are many social and economic implications of significance in this program. As is true in Europe, community forests are making definite contributions to more stable community life. They furnish constructive and useful outlets for unemployed labor. They supply nearby recreational outlets for the low income family groups who have little time and less money for extended vacations or relaxation from the daily routine. Many of these forests are being used for arboreta as well as for bird and wild flower sanctuaries. Aesthetic treatment of the approaches or outskirts of our communities to make them more attractive, inviting, and appealing both to the residents and to visitors is becoming an important consideration. There are definite spiritual values recognized in community forests. All of these advantages are closely correlated with, but do not prejudice, the primary objectives of commercial profit. Timber crops for revenue have been the great motivating force behind the establishment and management of community forests in Europe.

There have been four definite eras in the development of community forests in this country which may be summarized as follows:

1. Exploratory or initial stages during which there were many magazine articles and much publicity as a result of European visits of foresters, public officials, and others interested in developments abroad.
2. A campaign of public enlightenment and education regarding the advantages of community forests. This may also be termed the promotional stage of the movement.
3. The period during which many laws appeared on our state statute books providing for their establishment as a direct result of public agitation of sentiment favorable to community forests.
4. Establishment and management. This phase is just coming into being.

Today we may witness the results of promotional and educational efforts carried on by state foresters, forestry associations, the federal government, and various forward looking and public spirited citizens and groups interested in the program. There is a warm human-interest story connected with the establishment of nearly every one of these forests. They have been acquired by gift, purchase, from tax reverted lands, and from town or county poor farms. In each state and in each community there have been definite guiding motives. Much credit should be given to those foresters who have furnished inspiration, enthusiasm, and good judgment in creating and managing these areas.

Although some community forests were established long before the national forestry program was started (first town forest was established in 1710 at Newington, N. H.) the movement is generally credited to Harris A. Reynolds of the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association who visited Europe and studied the subject in company with William P. Wharton of the American Forestry Association.

In New Hampshire, State Forester John H. Foster and Warren H. Hale have been active
and effective in stimulating the movement. In Vermont Perry H. Merrill has been the guiding spirit in the establishment of many of these forests and has done an effective piece of work in providing adequate plans for their management. In New York, State Foresters C. R. Pettis and William G. Howard and Conservation Commissioners James S. Whipple, Alexander MacDonald, George B. Pratt, and Lithgow Osborne have been the motivating personalities in the establishment of some 579 community forests. There are now known to be 1,352 community forests in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the two Lake States of Wisconsin and Michigan and the total area involved is probably about 3,000,000 acres.

Wisconsin has finally evolved what appears to be a satisfactory system for a most difficult social and economic condition confronting the people of its northern counties. Today there are 25 county forests comprising 1,746,647 acres and 149 school forests of 11,200 acres which vary from 40 to 320 acres in size. The C.C.C. has been most helpful in reforestation operations as well as in road construction, fire protection, stand improvement, and other work in carrying forward this program of Wisconsin county forests. Recently Frank G. Wilson has announced the appointment of 10 foresters for the management of these county forests.

Michigan has established a number of school and other types of community forests and the Department of Conservation recently has decreed 9,456 acres of land comprising 97 individual projects to municipalities to be used as community forests under the state law of 1931. There are 19 school forests established in Michigan.

New York has established 579 forests estimated to contain at least 150,000 acres on which 68,000,000 trees have been planted largely on abandoned farm lands of which there are 5,000,000 acres in that state. There are five different types of community forests in New York namely, county, township, city, village, and school district forests. Most of these community forests are of the village and school district types. The first and one of the most imperative is at Gloversville started in 1909 on which more than 750,000 trees have been planted on a watershed forest of about 3,000 acres. There are several counties and cities in New York which have planted from 500,000 up to more than 3,000,000 trees each. New York City has planted more than 5½ million trees on its Ashokan, Gibboa, Crotone, and other watersheds. The city of Little Falls, N. Y., has received a cash revenue of more than $200,000 from the sale of timber products without impairing the growing condition and productive capacity of the forest. Meanwhile, the city has planted more than 2½ million trees, starting in 1916. These are storing up definite timber values for the future.

Under the guiding genius of Harris Reynolds who has written much of interest about the Massachusetts town forests, that state has at least 177 community forests of which 102 are town forests aggregating 32,000 acres. There are 75 watershed forests not organized under the Town Forest Act comprising about 83,500 acres so the total acreage in community forests in that state totals 115,500 acres. In addition, the Metropolitan Water District of Boston has recently acquired 54,000 acres of watershed lands. The size of the average town forest in Massachusetts is about 320 acres.

Vermont has established 44 community forests. Among them are some of the best managed community forests in the United States. At Essex Junction, a tract of 800 acres was acquired at a cost of $10,000. This initial investment has been entirely liquidated by the sale of timber products from which a net income of $13,000 was received. Thus a profit of $3,000 has been secured. There is a distinct series of age classifications and types, adequate fire protection insured, roadway construction, pruning, thinning, and stand improvement which gives it every appearance of a typical European community forest. Rutland has a very successful community forest of about 4,000 acres on which several million trees have been planted and from which more than 10,000 cords of wood have been cut and distributed to needy families on relief. Several thousand dollars cash income have also been received from the sale of cordwood, sawlogs, and pulpwood stumpage. It has a very complete forest management plan made by State Forester Perry Merrill.

Pennsylvania has 134 community forests of various types including watershed, borough, city, village, and county forests aggregating about 50,000 acres on which more than 5,000- 000 trees have been planted. Reading, York, Lock Haven, and Franklin present impressive examples of what may be done with community forests.

Maine has about 25 community forests, 8 of them organized as town forests and the balance are municipal forests with a total of 2,000 acres.

New Hampshire has a notable and impressive record. Here is located the oldest community forest established in 1710 at Newington. This little forest of 112 acres has played an important part in the social and economic life of this little village of 381 souls. From this forest, construction materials have been furnished for building the church, the oldest in continuous use in the United States, the school house, parsonage, town hall, and the familiar sheds of the old horse and buggy days. This little forest has helped to pay the salary of the minister of the church, has yielded revenues to pay off the Civil War debt, and has provided funds to pay for the village library; also enough money to put in a town water supply system has been secured from the forest. The forest completely surrounds part of the village on which the public buildings are located.

Part of it is also used as a baseball field and recreational center for both the young and old folks. The forest has been more than self-supporting as it has yielded over $6,000 in cash revenues in addition to supplying about 30 cords of wood per annum for heating the school, church, parsonage, town hall, and library. Thus this forest has played a significant part in the social and economic life of this little New England village.

New Hampshire has 102 community forests of which 91 are town forests and 11 are watershed forests. More than 2,000,000 trees have been planted on them. Of the town forests 31 were acquired by purchase, 30 by gift, 7 by tax title and 5 from unallotted land on common ground. Manchester has a water works forest of 3,462 acres, employs a professionally trained forester and is following an excellent management plan made in 1937.

New Jersey has a few community forests, the most notable of which is at Newark which has 36,000 acres and which employs a professionally trained forester. An equivalent value of more than $17,000 revenue has already been obtained from the sale of timber crops from this forest locally known as the Pequannock Watershed Forest.

Connecticut has made a modest start in community forests and the most notable is the Eli Whitney Forest belonging to the water company of New Haven, Conn. This company operates under a franchise from the city and is therefore a quasi-public enterprise. This forest has been under systematic forest management by Prof. R. C. Hawley of the Yale School of Forestry for 30 years and has definitely demonstrated the profitability of forestry as a business enterprise. About $45,000 profit has been received from the management of the natural stands which started with a very poor and almost valueless growth. Meanwhile many lands have been planted which are building up a definite value for the future. No thinnings are made unless they yield a profit. An interesting feature of this forest is that under Mr. Hawley's direction 150,000 board feet of white pine lumber has been cut from the thinnings on a 26-year-old plantation. The yield was from 500 to 1,800 board feet per acre and although the boards are largely 3 to 6 inches wide and generally in short lengths or 2 inches by 4 inches or 2 inches by 6 inches dimension this operation yielded a net profit of $5 per M.B.F. above all logging, sawing, marketing and overhead expense.

Some progress has also been made in several other states, notably in Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Washington, Oregon, and California.

It is estimated that there are probably about 1,000 community forests in the United States. They have many distinct and definite advantages over state or federal forests. Due to their proximity they furnish fuel for recreation and, similarly, immediate or nearby markets for the sale of cordwood, sawlogs, pulpwood, poles, posts, piles, grape stakes, and other forms of timber products.

They also offer definite outlets for the employment of some of the more active and experienced forestry graduates who may handle these properties as a business enterprise with their multiple benefits that may be secured from them. Already there are about 40 trained foresters employed on these forests. Among them may be mentioned Manchester, N. H.; Gloversville, Rochester, Albany and Little Falls, N. Y.; Newark, N. J.; and Seattle, Wash.
Twelve county foresters were appointed in 1938 in Wisconsin.

Many foresters have acted in a supervisory or official capacity such as Prof. A. C. Cline, who is chairman of the Town Forest Committee of Petersham, Mass., Henry Baldwin who is on the Town Forest Committee of Hillsboro, N. H., Prof. K. W. Woodward, and L. C. Swain who have been active with community forests in and about Durham, N. H., and Prof. G. B. MacDonald of Iowa State College in the recent establishment of a community forest at Corydon, Iowa.

The community forest movement is being directed and guided generally by state foresters. Owing to insufficiency of funds and personnel many of these forests are in serious need of a definite management plan with thinnings, improvement cuttings, releasing, and pruning. This is particularly true in forest plantations of the Northeast.

There is every evidence to indicate that the community forest program is making distinct progress in the United States. A modest start has been made. It is a seriously neglected phase of the public ownership program of American forestry. A few foresters here and there have been outstanding in their leadership, forward looking vision, and enthusiasm in "selling this idea" to local officials, watershed engineers, and city fathers. It has been done in case of about 1,600 examples. The opportunity is at hand. It is hoped that more foresters will catch the vision of this movement and help in carrying forward a more constructive and notable record of achievement. This program is going through the same vicissitudes of fortune which marked the development of the program in Europe. It is a notable fact, however, that not one forest already established has been abandoned except in a few cases where some forms of community forests have been taken over as part of an enlarged park system or to be added to an already established state forest program.
Dear President Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for your good letter, and especially your willingness to sign the foreword to the Forest Service Bulletin on Community Forests. This has been sent to Mr. F. A. Silcox, Chief Forester, and they are naturally delighted to have it.

We inspected your place the other day, and, in company with Mr. Plog, laid out details of planting operations for this spring. The weather has apparently changed its mind, and we are having a later spring than usual. However, we hope that planting will start in about two to three weeks, or whenever the frost leaves the ground at the Saratoga nurseries and they can dig the young trees.

We hope you are enjoying a splendid vacation in Warm Springs. You certainly deserve it. Alice and I are taking a little trip to Washington this week-end. Later, when you go to Hyde Park, I hope that we may have the pleasure of seeing you and going over in further detail the development of your forestry operations.

With renewed thanks for your kindness in signing this foreword and with best personal regards in which Alice joins,

Sincerely,

NELSON C. BROWN

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Warm Springs
Georgia

a
April 14, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In reply to your letter of April 11th, we are pleased to submit an estimate for furnishing and installing Venetian blinds for the Living Room, Hall and two Bedrooms and Bath, for the sum of $84.00.

For the Bedroom and Bath off the kitchen it would be $11.50 and for Kitchen and Hall...$18.50, making a total of $114.00.

This price includes the best quality of Blind with closed top and 2-3/8" wide slat. If we use a slat 1-3/4" wide the price would be $128.00.

We can guarantee you a first-class job and hope that we may be favored with your order.

We would like to know if we can also interest you in draperies, rugs, furniture etc. for this new home and we have a Decorator who would be only too glad to be of service to you.

Thanking you for allowing us to submit an estimate, we are

Yours very truly,

LUCKEY, PLATT & CO.

Dept. Mgr.
Model of Murals
On Exhibition At
Institute 4 Days

Olin Downs Describes Model of Panels To Grace
New Post Office Lobby

To The Editor
The Rhinebeck Gazette:

Sir:
As you know I am painting the murals for the new Post Office. Before
they progress too far I would like to have those citizens of Rhinebeck, who may be in-
terested, read the subject matter and see the two-inch scale model of the
lobby. Should you find this information of sufficient interest to
your readers, I would be grate-
ful if you would publish it.

Thanks to the kindness of the
Trustees of the Starr Institute the
model will be shown in their read-
ing room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
on this coming Friday the 12th,
Saturday the 13th, Monday the
15th and Tuesday the 16th of May.

Owing to changes during the
execution of the building, the
model’s mural spaces, and those
now visible in the Post Office itself
differ. Although this means re-
designing, it will not greatly
change the subject matter. Below
you will find a summary of this
subject matter, panel by panel. I
have attempted to give a consecu-
tive picture of the particular fif-
teen square miles of land around
the Town of Rhinebeck, from the
day Henry Hudson sailed by on his
way up the river in 1609—unto to-
day, emphasizing the landscape
and those simple activities which
bind our lives to the past and to
each other: tilling our fields, pre-
paring our food, building our hous-
es, eating and drinking, exchanging
goods and services, playing, talk-
ing, and church going. Running
parallel with this basic theme,
sometimes punctuating it with a
specific historic incident are those
currents and events that we have
in common with our whole coun-
try: the first discovery of land; its
acquisition and distribution; the
immigrations of peoples, from a-
broad—and, from East to West;
the development of transportation
and communication from sail to
steam to oil; on water; from foot,
to horse, to steam and to gasoline
on land, and now in the air; the
progression from a letter to the
telegraph, the telephone, the wire-
less and the radio. The Industrial
Revolution through these means
locally hardly ever by mechanized
production) transforms the rural
18th Century economy to our high-
ly complex one of today, speeding
its pace, flooding us with the ma-
chines and luxuries we now take
for granted. In my life time the
State road has broadened, straight-
een, armored its surface with
concrete, collected a retinue of
signs, hot dog stands and gasoline
stations. The winding Kings High-
way of the River road has become
Route 9, artery of heavy luxury
and business traffic. Traffic that
influences Rhinebeck directly, and
indirectly is responsible for the
difference between Williams and
Traver and the standardized A. &
P., between the rural milk wagon
and Dairyline’s streamlined alumi-
num truck distribution from
Poughkeepsie.

Yet I feel that even these chan-
ges are subordinate to the landscape
and to the more rural activities—
and that is why they are in the

(Continued on Page Seven)
Model of Murals
At Starr Institute
(Continued from Page One)
background of the modern panel
framed by apple trees.
During these three centuries and
ty三十年 our country has been
involved in several wars. Although
a number of Revolutionary lea-
ders came from Rhinebeck, no bat-
tles or important incidents are
connected with our land. In both
the Civil and World Wars the
fighting was even further away.
Consequently it seemed suitable to
show the two latest ones as all of
us know them in the Decoration
Day Parade.
Beside the model will be a pad
and pencil. If you have any sug-
gestions will you please jot them
down, sign them and leave your
address and telephone number. I
would appreciate any constructive
criticism of historic details, cos-
tumes, implements, any particu-
larly good legends or stories.
Whenever possible specific charac-
ters are to be used. If you have an
authentic print or portrait of an
ancestor who might figure in the
mural I would like to be al-
lowed to copy it. When such data
is non-existent I should like to
portray a living descendant and
would be grateful to have such re-
lationships called to my atten-
tion.
The general plan has been laid
out after much research and dis-
cussion. While most of the im-
portant details have been checked
by experts, there are undoubtedly
others that have been overlooked.
I should be glad to have them cor-
corrected.
Faithfully,
Olin Dows
Glencurn, May 8, 1939.

Subject Matter
The mural starts on the East
wall of the lobby, to the left of the
entrance door as you come in,
moving around the room from left
to right.

East Wall
Panel No. 1—September 12 to
20, 1699. Henry Hudson’s “Half
Moon” anchored off the old Rhine-
ciff station site, Indians preparing
corn—and going down to watch
the boats come in.
1689—Hendrick and Jacob Kip
buying Kipshagen (Rhinebeck)
from the Indian Sachems, Ankonky,
Calcoon and Anamson.
1719—Palatine settlers having
sailed from Tivoli, are climbing the
hill, led by Judge Henry Beekman
(resident of Kingston who died
the next year) and his domains
John Frederick Hager. In the fore-
ground is the so-called Indian
sailor with Henry Beekman 2nd
(1688-1718) sitting on a log. John
Beatty and Tunis Pier drawing
maps on the ground preparatory
to dividing the land. Behind them
on the right is the Hendrick Kip
house built just before 1700.
Panel over window—one of the
first Dutch funerals in the Van
Waasganan-Aarten burying ground
(near old Holiday Farm).
Panel No. 2—A winter Sunday at
the first church (built about 1716
—far end of Astor flats). This was
a union of Calvanist, Dutch Re-
formed under John Frederick Hage-
er and Lutheran under Johannes
Spalier. (The building is taken
from Morais “Histories Old Rhine-
beck.”) Is there a more authentic
the following year at the siege of
Quebec is kneeling to plant a
seeding locust tree, while his wife
Janet Livingston looks on. In the
background on an erumpa and
kneads clay which is put in moulds
and baked in the kiln in the right
foreground. (Has anyone a pic-
ture of one of these home made
kils used of Garamrene?).
At the right a Continental is
taking away a Tory’s gun (the
proportion in Dushness was 3 to
11). Behind them the Revolu-
tionary Pledge is being given—also
drilling is going on.
Panel No. 7—An autumn even-
ning shortly before or after the
War. A farmer is hard at his
neighbors! in for a corn shucking
bee. Supper is being served, a
barn dance is beginning. In the
center the boy who has found
the red ear is kissing the girl bring-
ing the cider. The last workers are
finishing up. In the background
an apple orchard.
Panel No. 8—Sunday morning
in August about 1790—just before
Church (which should be a small
red clapboard building), Margaret
Beekman Livingston in her coach
bows to a friend. By the pulpit
a group of Palatine citizens, (in
their bright peasant costume-
mentioned in a letter of Morgan
Lewis) are resting and putting
on the shoes they’ve carried home.
Around the church would be
the pastor Petrus de Witt, the
elders Jan Welt, Evert Beekman,
Issac Davis and Barent Ostrom and
various members of the con-
gregation among whom were
Van Keurans, the Van Etten’s, Mrs.
Montgomery, the Tolbottans, the
Browns, the Kips, the Blooden-
bergs, Issac Roosevelt, the Travers,
the Chancellor, Peter and Ethen
Livingston, the Lewises, the Rad-
cliffes, the Van Vliets, etc., etc.
The Beekman Arms (Traphagen’s
Tavern) is on the right.
Panel No. 9—Slide Dock on Au-
gust 7, 1897, has a crowd watching
the “Clermont” sail by on its way
to Tivoli. Slaves are loading a
sloop with grain, while a couple
are waiting with their luggage to
take a voyage to Newburgh.

North Wall
Panel No. 19 and panel over
window—The Garretson house
(built in 1799 by the citizens of
Freeborn Garretson and Catherine
Livingston) “Windercliff” with the
Methodist grove near by.
Panel No. 11—A winter day a-
bout 1865 at the old Rhinecliff
Station. In the center the Easter
family are about to leave for the
West. The Kingston traffic comes
across the frozen river, with ice-
cutting and ice-boat racing in the
background. Near the platform
on the right is Winter’s Express. (Has
anyone a picture of it?)
Panel over window—Coasting
and on the right the building of
McKinn, Meade & White’s, tennis
building for Colonel John Jacob
Astor in 1904, becoming part of
Panel No. 12, which shows the
rise of one of the great 19th
Century estates, “Ferndale.” On
the river can just be seen William
Astor’s first private steam yacht
and the Mary Powell. The house
built about 1840 has a coach and
four in front of it—while in 1901
on the hill Col. Astor’s automobilist,
the first in these parts, has broken
down and is being towed by a
farm team. On the central hill Mr.
and Mrs. William Astor and Louis
Ehlers their superintendent, the
distinguished landscape gardeners
and rival of Downing, discuss the
1715—Palatine settlers having sailed from Tivoli, are climbing the hill by Judge Henry Beekman (resident of Kingston who died the next year) and their domicile John Frederick Hager. In the foreground is the so-called Indian stone—with Henry Beekman 2nd (1816-1878) sitting on a log. John Besty and Tunis Pier drawing maps on the ground preparatory to fencing the land. Behind them on the right is the Hendrick Kip house built just before 1700.

Panel over window—one of the first Dutch funerals in the Van Wassenaar-Asten burying ground (near old Holiday Farm).

Panel No. 2—A Sunday at the first church (built about 1716—far end of Astor lane). This was a union of Calvinists, Dutch Reformed under John Frederick Hager and Lutheran under Johannes Spalter. (The building is taken from Morse's "Historic Old Rhinebeck." Is there a more authentic picture?)

South Wall
Panel No. 3—Colonel Henry Beekman 2nd, grown older sits outside his porch receiving the midsummer's quilt rent from his Palatine tenants. The house (from which the Post Office is copied) was built about 1791 by Hendrick Kip and his wife Anna Jan Van Patten and was exchanged for some land of Henry Beekman who moved in about 1730.

Panel over window—owning this house in 1779 was Henry Livingston Beekman (1739-1831) who is here shown plowing in his court uniform to show his contempt for George III. He was the son of Margaret Beekman (1724-1800) only child of the Henry Beekman in the previous panel, who in 1748 married Robert Livingston.

Panel No. 4—A composite picture of the Beekman-Livingston (1715—now Holiday Farm) and the General Montgomery mill (1774—Van Steenberg). (Are there any good pictures of either of these mills? or descriptive data?) In the foreground a boy is about to go swimming on one of the first warm spring days. Behind him is the mill, the falls with a bridge over them and a farmer on horseback bringing in his grazers to be ground.

Panel over the window—The mill road continues by a farm with the river behind, running into—Panel No. 5—spring is just beginning. A farmer on the Kings Highway has stopped his oxen and plow to chat with the weekly post rider on his way from New York to Albany. (A service started in 1740). His wife takes a few moments off to sit in the open and weave a basket and listen to the news.

West Wall
Panel No. 6—May 1775. The Burning of "Graamre." A man on a scaffolding is laying bricks while General Montgomery (killed 1777) is laying it well to raise the cutting bar so that the grass will not be trimmed as closely to the ground as before. The longer length of the grass will protect the plants from the heat of mid-summer which often causes dead spots in many a lawn.

Station. In the center an Eastern family are about to leave for the West. The Kingston traffic comes across the frozen river, with cutting and ice-boat racing in the background. Near the platform on the right is Winter's Express. (Has anyone a picture of it?)

Panel over window—Coasting and on the right the building of McKim, Meade & White's, tennis building for Colonel John Jacob Astor in 1904, becoming part of Panel No. 12, which shows the rise of one of the great 19th Century estates, "Ferncliff." On the river can just be seen William Astor's first private steamer yacht and the Mary Powell. The house built about 1840 has a coach and four in front of it—while in 1901 on the hill Col. Astor's automobile, the first in these parts, has broken down and is being towed by a farm team. On the central hill Mr. and Mrs. William Astor and Louis Edlefs their superintendent, the distinguished landscape gardener and rival of Downing, discuss the planting of a tree. In the foreground a socially conscious modern painter is drawing the Italian workmen coming home from their day's work on the tennis building.

East Wall
Panel No. 13. The Decoration Day Parade about 1920 with the G. A. R., and American Legion veterans marching down a street. Two old ladies on a Victorian porch are watching the parade and discussing the daily doings.

Panel over window continues the street made up of various characteristic houses.

Panel No. 14. An apple orchard with a young family setting apples and hanging off on the branches. In the foreground, two boys picking apples and putting them in barrels.


June 16, 1939.

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation,
50 Market Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

Gentlemen:

The President asks that from the first of July on you bill Mr. Emacil W. Linska for the electricity used in the Hyde Park farm house. Mr. Linska will take the place of Mr. His in a few days as the tenant in this house.

In regard to the Dutchess Hill house, please send the bills from July first on to Mr. Christian His, who will shortly move up there.

Very truly yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY
June 8, 1939

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Our new line to the Big Tenant House on your Dutchess Hill property was completed and placed in operation on May 19, 1939. It is my understanding from your Superintendent, Mr. Plog, that for the present you wish the service here carried in your name and the bill mailed to the White House, which is our present mailing address for service to your new Dutchess Hill House.

If at any time you wish us to bill the service for the Tenant House directly to the tenant, we will gladly change our records accordingly.

Yours very truly,

CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORP.

By
District Manager.

JEDoolittle: A
## CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>RATE NO.</th>
<th>DEMAND TYPE</th>
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**FINAL BILLING**

PAID BY CHECK NO. DATED 193 $12.47

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**HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**

% CHRISTIAN BIE

3735 HYDE PARK, N. Y.

355 DUTCHESS HILL

SERVICE FOR PERIOD ENDED JUNE 27, 1939

AUG. 18, 1939

NET AMOUNT PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE AFTER THIS DATE THE GROSS AM'T BECOMES DUE
The rate schedules of this corporation are on file in each of its offices, and may be inspected by any person upon application. Assistance will be rendered to enable any person to determine the rate, charge, rule or regulation applicable to any or all of the services classified in such schedules.

Folders have been prepared which contain condensed statements of the corporation's rates. The numbers of the rates in the folders corresponding with the numbers of the service classifications in the rate schedules and these rate numbers are shown on the face of your bill every month. Folders containing a condensed statement of the rate or rates under which you are served will be sent to you whenever a change in rate is made, and copies may be obtained at any of the offices of the corporation upon request.
August 5, 1939

Miss M. A. LeHand, Private Secretary
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss LeHand:

This will answer your letter of July 31 regarding the transfer of the electric account for the Dutchess Hill house from the name of the President to Mr. Christian Bie.

We have reviewed this arrangement with Mr. Bie and are transferring the account as of the last regular meter reading date, which is June 27, 1939. The enclosed bill represents the final billing for the President and all future bills will be rendered to Mr. Bie.

Very truly yours,

CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORP.

By

District Manager.

JEDoolittle/JV
June 23, 1939.

Dear Senator-

Will you be good enough to express to the Town Board my personal thanks for the resolution they adopted in relation to the establishment of a repository for my papers and other historical materials?

It is in great part because of the long association of my family with the Town of Hyde Park that I have wanted these papers, pictures, ship models, etc., to stay permanently in the town — and, of course, they are so valuable that I could not possibly afford to build or maintain a building for them myself.

I hope much that the House of Representatives will finally pass the bill which the Senate has already passed.

May I at the same time explain to the Town Board that if and when the field north of the avenue is transferred to the United States Government, the loss in taxes to the town will be very small, i.e., only the value of sixteen or seventeen acres of farm land. On the other side of the picture, it seems probable that the permanent staff of the library will amount to at least a dozen people, including the guides and watchmen, and those people with their families will form a permanent and desirable addition to the population of the town, and most of them will undoubtedly rent or build homes in the town, thus adding to the property values to an extent far greater than the loss of taxes on the sixteen acres.
I think the Town Board and the assessors ought to know this and I suggest that you read this letter to the Town Board and the assessors without giving it any publicity at this time because I do not want to seem to be working for what is, after all, a very simple proposal on my part to make these collections available to the public for all time.

I might also add, for your information and others, that in all probability many thousands of people will visit the Library and the Museum part of it and will thus bring a certain amount of annual income to the village and the town.

Always sincerely,

Klaus Van Wagner, Esq.,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Official Certificate

This Certifies that Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt

has paid

To Park Lodge No. 203.

Hyde Park, New York,

The sum of Ten Dollars

in full for all charges to July 14, 1939.

EXCEPT ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AFTER THE DATE OF THIS CERTIFICATE.

No. Robert S. Halsey

Signature of Holder.
THIS is the only legal receipt for dues and other charges, and its use is required in all Lodges, Rebekah Lodges and Encampments. It is a proper credential for visiting in all Jurisdictions on the Continent of North America. Its use is limited to the date to which dues are shown to be paid. The holder shall prove identity and good standing in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Order, and upon such proof, the presiding officer of the Lodge visited is authorized to communicate the A.T.F.W. If the visitor is a member in the Jurisdiction visited the presiding officer shall also communicate to him the Password of the current term.

Payment of Beneficence or pecuniary aid is not authorized by this Certificate.

TELEGRAPHIC CIPHER AND KEY:

Benefice—What sick and funeral benefits do you pay?
Black—He is a fraud, and if he has a card or other papers from this lodge, they are forgeries.
Blood—He is an expelled member, and has not been in good standing for
Cash—Is in our city asking financial assistance, and claims membership in our lodge in good standing.
Caution—Look out for a fraud named
Death—Identity of deceased. Wire description.
Funds—Shall we aid him and draw on you to the extent
Green—Wire instructions to us at once as to the disposition of his remains.
Hospitals—Draw on us for the amount of expenses incurred.
Help—Will your lodge pay nurses hire, and how much per day?
Home—Is in our city, holding a visiting card from your lodge and asking for financial assistance.
Lodge—Your card remains to this place by
Purple—We think best to bury him there.
Red—Holding a visiting card from you; has died here.
Regalia—Assist him and we will honor draft in the extent of
River—Has your lodge a member in good standing by the name of
Rock—A member of our lodge is in your city needing assistance. His name and address are
Secretary—He has a fraudulent card.
White—We don’t know any such party, and he does not belong to our lodge.
Widow—Wife or child of a deceased member of your lodge is in our city asking assistance. Shall we draw on you to the extent of
Yellow—Is in our city and very sick. Claims membership in your lodge. Shall we give him attendance on your account?
Son, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dear Sir and Friend,

Enclosed please find certificate for your Lodge dues. Kindly send check for the amount $10. I think you will not receive the nomination for the third term. Although you have been one of our best President's of the United States.

Fraternally yours in F.D. and F.

Robert G. Haldane, Fin. Secy.
Thomas Wildey, founder and father of America Odd Fellowship, was born in London, England on the 15th of January 1782. He left his native shore for his new home in Baltimore, where he arrived in September 1817. He died in the City of Baltimore on the 19th of October 1861—in the 80th year of his age.
A Hot Summer Day

There is a brick building
On Hot Market Street,
The upper part was
Park Lodge meeting room.
And the lower part
Was barley and hops.
There was a spirit above
And a spirit below.
The spirit above
Was a spirit of love,
And the spirit below
Was barley and hops,
So quence the thirst
On a hot summer day.
Dear Missy:

I have discovered that Moses Smith who used to rent the little house on the road to Bill (the man who works for me) for $10 a month the year round, is now charging Bill $15 a month in summer and $10 a month in winter, because of the improvements which I put in and paid for.

I am now planning to put in, with F.D.R.'s help I hope, considerably more work which is needed badly. However, I am not putting them in so that Moses can raise the rent.

I would like F.D.R. to tell Moses that Bill is to pay him $10 a month the year round and no more. I understand that he told Bill that he could now rent the house for $15 a month and if Bill did not like it, he could move. If that is the case, I do not see why we are obligated to do anything to the house. I would rather buy a portable house and put it up for Bill, taking out the furnace, bathroom, etc. which I put in.

The roof has been leaking badly for a couple of years and Moses has promised to do something about it. He has never done anything, and the only thing which can be done is to
put on a whole new roof. Henry Osthagen can get this material for me for the cost of the freight, and has already arranged for it to be sent up. I do not see why Moses should be the gainer.

Will you please see what you can do with Moses before I actually get the things done to the house.

I think Jimmy told F.D.R. and I wrote him that the plaster has fallen, etc. so at present the house is not really fit to live in.

Affectionately,

If we were to give this job to a contractor it would cost in the neighborhood of $750, but with Henry's cooperation it will be so much less, it should not be neglected now.
October 11, 1939.

Dear Nelson:

I am glad you are safely back and hope you will be able to spend a few hours at Hyde Park some Sunday when I am there. I will let you know definitely, but I expect to be there Saturday and Sunday, October twenty-first and twenty-second, and again over Election.

A very large percentage of this year's spruce plantings are a total loss — I should say offhand 23,000 out of 25,000 — even though we watered them a great deal. A guess in the older plantings leads me to believe that the loss there was very small — perhaps not more than 5% in the previous year's plantings and an even smaller percentage in the older trees.

I think, therefore, we should plan to plant 80,000 next April — replacing the ones that died this year and adding the additional 28,000 on new land.

My best to you both,

As ever yours,

Professor Nelson C. Brown,
State Forestry College,
Syracuse,
New York.
October 7, 1939

Dear President Roosevelt:

Your good letter on leaving for Europe was very much appreciated. On my recent return to Syracuse I have been much concerned about the condition of your trees. In May I urged Mr. Plog to water the new trees if there was a dry summer season. This may have been impracticable on a large scale.

I expect to inspect the trees on your place soon and make recommendations for next Spring's planting. Silcox has asked me to come to Washington to confer about the European situation later this month, and perhaps I could see you then, if convenient, or later in Hyde Park. This has been a very tough summer for trees throughout New York.

Hoping to see you sometime this Fall, and with best regards in which Alice joins,

Sincerely,

NELSON C. BROWN

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
N. Y.
NELSON C. BROWN  
STATE FORESTRY COLLEGE  
syracuse, new york  
October 9, 1939.

Dear Mr. Early:

A clipping from the Washington Post of Oct. 6 indicates that I was to see the President during the last week in Hyde Park. He generally invites me to come down to go over his reforestation plans with him each fall or spring, or both. I also learned from a local newspaper that I was to be invited.

However, I did not receive directly any telephone or wire from you or Miss LeHand, so I hope to get in touch with the President when I am in Washington later in the fall, or perhaps when he comes up to Hyde Park in November.

I wrote the President on Saturday stating that I expect to inspect his trees soon and make a report as to their condition.

Needless to say I shall of course be very happy indeed to do anything I can to be of assistance to the President.

With best personal regards and good wishes.

Sincerely,

[NELSON C. BROWN]

R

Hon. Stephen Early,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States
Hon. James A. Farley, Postmaster General of the United States
We, the citizens of the Village of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, do hereby petition as requisite and necessary, the United States Government to purchase the property situated on the East side of the Albany Post Road in the Village of Hyde Park, between Market Street and Main Street, which is now owned by Fred S. Hover and formerly owned by Charles Terpening, as the site for the United States Post Office which is to be erected in this Village. We believe this is the ideal situation for the Post Office because it is centrally located in the main business section of the Village, and because it provides ample parking space for automobiles. The trees and shrubbery now on the aforementioned property would eliminate the extra expense of landscaping which has so often occurred on parcels purchased throughout the County in the past.

1. Earl Rose
2. Raymond Libin
3. Daisie L. Welch
4. Edson L. Bartol
5. Michael Shanahan
6. Hartman Staudt
7. William O'Roak
8. Thaddeus Farnbridge
9. F. B. Fredeen
11. J. Jumper
12. W. Buttre
13. Louis Demus
14. J. Prior
15. W. P. Lohse
16. W. D. Gallaher
17. George S. Bourne
18. Grace M. Welmer
19. Grace M. Welmer
20. Martin Bourne
October 11, 1939

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Hon. James A. Farley, Postmaster General of the United States
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property would eliminate the extra expense of landscaping which has
so often occurred on parcels purchased throughout the County in the
past.

[Signatures]

[Additional Signatures]

[Assistant's Note: The signatures are not legible enough to be transcribed accurately.]
October 13, 1939.

Memo to Gerald Morgan from the President

In re-job as labper or janitor for William Plain when Library is finished.

Letter to the President of October 6, 1939 from Elmer Van Wagner recommending Plain for position; also letter of Oct 6th from Wm Plain.

See: "Jobs for FDR Library folder-Downstairs file"
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

1. There must be attached to the proposal a plat showing the dimensions of the property offered and widths of all abutting streets and alleys. Such dimensions shall describe clear building space exclusive of sidewalks.

2. If the vendor desires to reserve any building or other improvements on the site it is important that he describe the same in the space provided for that purpose in the form of proposal.

3. The "Conditions" on the reverse of the proposal are incorporated by reference in the proposal. As these "Conditions" constitute important contractual provisions setting forth in detail the obligations of the bidder, it is of extreme importance that they be carefully read prior to submission of the proposal.

Commissioner of Public Buildings,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In response to your invitation for offers of property for the Federal build-
ing at Apple Park, New York (City and State) the undersigned hereby propose to sell or donate to the United States of America for the following described land (clear building space, exclusive of sidewalks, etc.), to wit:

Land on the east side of the Albany Post Road between Main and E. Market St., with a frontage of 95 ft and a depth of 177 ft, with garage on same which I would like to reserve.

as shown by the attached plat on which is indicated the correct widths of public streets and alleys abutting the site; together with all of the improvementsthereon, except the following.

NOTE: IF THE VENDOR DESIRES TO RESERVE IMPROVEMENTS OR ANY PART OF THEM IT MUST BE SO INDICATED IN THE ABOVE SPACE PROVIDED FOR SUCH PURPOSE, OTHERWISE THIS PROPOSAL IS FOR LAND, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON.

(Over)
The foregoing proposal is submitted in accordance with, and subject to, the terms and conditions of said invitation or advertisement, and the "Conditions" governing purchase of Federal building sites as hereinafter set forth.

The name of the holder of the mortgage on the above property (or his local representative) is

The most recent assessed valuation of record on the above described property are:

LAND $14,000
IMPROVEMENTS
TOTAL

Assessments made (year) 19

** CONDITIONS **

1. PRICE ADJUSTMENT IF LESS AREA. In the event that the land conveyed has less area (clear building space, exclusive of sidewalks, etc.) than indicated by the dimensions given in the description furnished in the proposal, an equitable reduction shall be made in the amount of the purchase price. The foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall not obligate the United States to conclude the purchase of a lesser area than that described in the proposal.

2. TITLE. Within 30 days from the date of the letter of acceptance, and without additional expense to the United States, the vendor shall cause to be executed and delivered all abstracts or certificates of title, plats, maps, official certifications, affidavits, evidences of title, deeds of conveyance, etc., necessary in the opinion of the Attorney General, to convey to the United States of America a valid and satisfactory title to said land clear of all mineral rights, easements, restrictions, leases, judgments, taxes, and assessments, existing or inchoate, liens, or incumbrances of any sort, at the date of the transfer of the title to the United States. The vendor shall so furnish said title papers, etc., as to make the same in every respect satisfactory to the Attorney General of the United States. The deed to the United States of America shall be typewritten, and the consideration stated in such deed shall be the actual consideration paid by the Government, irrespective of any consideration or payment from other sources to the vendor. (It is not necessary to discharge liens and mortgages until the transfer of title to the Government is about to be made.)

3. SURVEY. Within 30 days from the date of the letter of acceptance, and without expense to the United States, the vendor shall furnish a careful survey of said site, based on the local land records as required by "Specification for Vendor's Survey" (Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency Form No. 8835-A); have the surveyor set permanent stone or concrete markers at each corner, or bound, of the land; have the description in the deed to the United States conform to the actual measurements and refer to the monuments utilized by the surveyor. Such survey, etc., shall be first submitted to the Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, at the earliest practicable date, and all required corrections therein and in the setting of said monuments promptly made to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Public Buildings.
4. **CONTINUATION OF ABSTRACTS, ETC.** Immediately preceding the payment of the purchase money, the vendor shall have said abstracts or certificates of title continued down to, and including, the date of the recording of the deeds, etc., to the United States and show such recordation, and also have appended to said abstracts or certificates of title the proper official certification showing that all taxes, special assessments, existing or inchoate, charges, liens, judgments, conveyances, mortgages, or incumbrances of any character whatsoever, standing as a charge against any part of said site at, or before, the date of recordation of said deeds to the United States, etc., have been duly paid, discharged, and released of record, so that an absolutely clear title to the whole of said site without restriction or reservation of any nature, shall then be vested in the United States; all without additional expense to the United States.

5. **CONDEMNATION.** That in case, in the opinion of the Department of Justice it becomes desirable to condemn any portion of said site, or any interest pertaining thereto, the United States shall have the option to require that said vendor shall promptly furnish sufficient security (satisfactory to the United States Attorney in charge of the case) to guarantee that the cost of the whole site to the United States, however acquired, shall not exceed the price named in the first paragraph of the attached acceptance, and that said vendor will furnish such papers, etc., above referred to, including bond required by paragraph 8 of these conditions, as the Attorney General may require, and pay the usual court costs of such proceedings so necessitated by the state of the title.

6. **DEDICATIONS AND VACATIONS.** The vendor shall furnish promptly upon the request of the United States Attorney, such duly authenticated evidence as may be required by the Attorney General satisfactorily to establish that the public alleys and roadways abutting the site, as shown in the proposal, have been duly dedicated to the public and legally accepted by the proper authorities of the municipality in which said site is situated, and that the same have been actually opened and will be kept open and improved as are other public streets and alleys in said municipality. In the event that any such alleys or roadways have not been duly dedicated to the public and legally accepted as aforesaid, the vendor agrees that he will cause the same to be duly dedicated and legally accepted. Also, should the vacation of any alley, passageway, or street, or portion of such alley, passageway, or street, now lying within the area comprising the entire site, be required to vest in the United States a valid unencumbered title to the entire site, the vendor must procure such vacation and furnish similar evidence of the due accomplishment thereof, without expense to the United States.

7. **CONDITIONS ENTIRE SITE BE ACQUIRED.** If the proposed site is composed of more than one parcel of land, the Federal Works Agency shall be under no obligation to acquire any parcel until the Attorney General shall have rendered a favorable opinion on the title to all the parcels embraced in the entire tract to be acquired; and, where any portion of the site is to be acquired by condemnation proceedings, the Federal Works Agency shall not be required to conclude the purchase of any parcel until the award in condemnation shall have been rendered and found to be in an amount satisfactory to that Agency.
8. CLEARING OF SITE: (a) Upon thirty (30) days' notice in writing so to do after title to the land comprising the site has vested in the United States, the vendor shall be obligated, without expense to the United States and to the satisfaction of the custodian of the site (1) if buildings or other improvements have been reserved by the vendor, to remove the same down to ground level; and (2) if buildings or other improvements have been reserved by the vendor or if the site is unimproved, to remove all tracks, poles and wires (overhead or underground), all gas, water and heating pipes, ducts, etc., conduits, ditches and sewers crossing the site or, in lieu of removal thereof, to plug at the lot lines any such pipes, ducts, conduits or sewers.

(b) Immediately after title to such land has vested in the United States (or, if removal of reserved buildings or other improvements shall thereafter create a dangerous condition, then immediately after such condition is created), the vendor shall, without expense to the United States, rail off or cover, to the satisfaction of the custodian of the site, all open wells, cellars or other excavations on the site.

(c) Before payment is made to the vendor, the vendor shall furnish a good and sufficient bond (in such amount as the United States Attorney may deem ample) to guarantee to the United States the performance of all of the obligations of the vendor as set forth in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph 8.

(d) If the vendor shall fail to comply with any of the obligations set forth in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph 8, the Government, if deemed in its interests by the Commissioner of Public Buildings of the Federal Works Agency, may perform the work, sell or dispose of any buildings or other improvements, or any portion thereof, and collect from the vendor or the obligors on the bond referred to in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph 8 all costs incurred in excess of the proceeds of any such sale.

9. GROUND RENTAL. In the event that the buildings on the land are reserved to the vendor, a reasonable ground rental shall be paid by the vendor to the United States for the period from the date title to the land is vested in the United States until the date of service of the thirty (30) day notice to clear the site or until the site has been cleared by the vendor, whichever date is the earlier.

10. RENTAL - LAND AND BUILDINGS. When buildings and improvements are not reserved by the vendor a reasonable rental for the land and buildings shall be paid by the vendor to the United States for the period from the date title to the land is vested in the United States until the date of vacation of the premises.

11. ATTEMPTED VARIATIONS. That no variation or departure from the terms of the contract of which these "Conditions" form a part will be binding on the United States unless previously agreed upon in writing by the Federal Works Agency.

12. The vendor represents and it is a condition of acceptance of this proposal that no Member of or Delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or agreement, or to any benefit that may arise thereupon; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to the contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
October 24, 1939.

Dear Mr. Linaker:

Should I pay the enclosed bill or will you? In case you take care of it, will you ask them please never to call the cottage "Roosevelt Dream House"? The President speaks of it as "The Hill Cottage."

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. Russell W. Linaker,
Van Wagner Road,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.

(Enclosure) Bill for $21.31 from Joseph L. Fimbel,
Plumbing supplies - 15 Rose St., Poughkeepsie
October 25, 1939.

Dear Moses:

Thank you for your note. The Post Office and Treasury people tell me they would like to have a corner lot for the Post Office and they are now looking both at the old school house site and at two other corners.

I will see you the end of next week.

Always sincerely,

Mr. Moses W. Smith,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.
Hyde Park, NY
Dec 20th 1939

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
My Dear President:

Enclosed please find a petition and site proposal for a new Post Office in Hyde Park, site Proposal Form 642, as you have favored the east side of the Post Road for such building.

I thought perhaps you may spare time and look this proposal over, hoping this proposal will meet your approval.

Very sincerely yours,

Moses W. Smith
November 10, 1939.

Dear Mr. Linaka:

I am enclosing some receipted bills which you may want to keep for your records. In the future will you be good enough to send me the Monthly Report for my files and you keep the receipts?

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. Russell W. Linaka,
Van Wagner Road,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.
TELEGRAM
The White House
Washington
Middletown NY 645am Nov 10 1939

The President

The White House


Robert Graham.

917am/d
November 18, 1939

Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear President Roosevelt:

Professor Fite's reply to my answer to his criticism of the Hyde Park Schools was a demand that I state my fee on the Middletown High School Project. You may have seen what he had to say in the Poughkeepsie Evening Star.

Of course, he couldn't have admitted more clearly to any thinking person that he had no sensible reply. I have, however, answered him because of the fact that the Landscaping ran lower than we expected, and I felt this fact to be worthy of note.

You will find enclosed a copy of my letter.

Very respectfully yours,

Robert R. Graham

Encl.

RR
g-A0's
Honorable Professor Bowen

Copy sent for information of

Middletown, N.Y.

Robert R. Graham

November 17, 1929
November 9, 1939

Re: East Park School
Docket No. NY-1903-F
Section 1

Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

You will find enclosed a copy of the final draft of my reply to Professor Fite. Two paragraphs have been bracketed in red which will be of interest to you. Before sending this, I called W. A. Clifford, Executive Secretary of the Associated School Boards of New York State and he told me that they had asked Professor Fite to make that address knowing that he held the most radical view in the Assembly on Educational matters and at the same time arranged to have Judge Golding of Cobleskill answer him. Golding's answer was splendid but of course he had no data on the cost of the schools around Hyde Park. Mr. Clifford was delighted that I would take issue with Fite regarding the cost of these schools and also was very surprised at the low unit cost. He said he would incorporate parts of my reply in the next bulletin they issued and that the full letter would go to the legislative committee, since they expect the entire matter of Education costs to be fought out in the next session of the Legislature. (Last session made a cut in State Aid.)

The other day when I saw you, I had been to the job first but only for a few minutes and I had not been informed that the Well was started the day before. I will keep you informed of our progress. They hit rock just below Boiler Room level.

We worked out the outside trim color yesterday. It is made with white lead, raw umber and a very slight amount of ocher (yellow). You wouldn't know any yellow is used, but it was necessary to warm it up slightly.

We submitted plans and specifications for equipment yesterday to P. W. A. for approval and received it. The Board will authorize advertising it tonight.
Bids on grading, roads, walks and landscaping will be received tonight. Should the bids seem at all out of line, you need have no concern, for in that case revisions will be made and new figures taken. We are determined to keep under the budget set-up. I will send you a report on the bidding.

Again thanking you for the very pleasant interview, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Robert R. Graham
November 7, 1939

Professor Emerson D. Fite
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, New York

Dear Sir:

I attended the convention of the Associated School Boards of New York State held recently at Syracuse, N.Y.

Unfortunately I did not happen to be in the room when you gave your address entitled "State Aid and School Costs". Immediately after the morning session however, I was informed by a great many members of Boards of Education, for whom I am acting as Architect, as to your remarks.

It is my understanding that you referred to the schools being built around the Hyde Park section and Wappinger Falls as Marble Palaces, and that you publicly stated that it was no wonder Architects put everything into a building they could because they worked on a percentage basis and the more a building cost the more they received.

It is to be regretted that a man of your character and standing would publicly make remarks of this kind with apparently no investigation into the facts. Such remarks create a very wrong impression among the residents of a Central School District and doubts as to the manner in which their school building program is being managed.

I enquired particularly as to whether you reminded those present that in the case of the new East Park High School, on which I am acting as Architect, that the four base contracts on Construction were let at about $65,000 less than our estimate. Or whether you reminded them that this school was let at a cost of 29.5c per cubic foot, which is a very low unit cost of construction. I was informed you made no mention of these facts.

Mr. Charles Cooke, of Poughkeepsie, is Architect for the school at Fairview. This building was let also at about $41,000 under Mr. Cooke's estimate. Thus, on these two buildings, by careful thought and planning Mr. Cooke and myself were able to contract these two buildings at $106,000 less than our estimates. This does not indicate to me that any attempt was made to increase the cost of construction on these two buildings.

I happen to know a little about the Wappinger Falls school also. It was planned by a close friend of mine, whose careful personal attention to all details may have been a contributing cause to his death. I consider that this building is well planned, and I know it was let at a very low figure.

Your reference to these schools as Marble Palaces also must have been misleading to the group at Syracuse. The three schools in the Hyde Park Central District are built of field stone. A considerable portion of the field stone for the
High School came from stone walls on the very site where the building is located. The rest of it came from stone walls or fences in the vicinity. It is impossible to analyze the exact comparison of cost of this construction with brick, but the figures indicate that it cost less. A building must, of course, be built in some style. The Colonial style is our own American style, and you will find that most of the fine examples of this period in Dutchess County, and most of the Hudson Valley, are built of field stone; so you can hardly criticize the propriety in its use.

As to marble, there is very little marble in the buildings. The only use of marble in the High School is for toilet rooms and shower rooms, where marble has been found to be the most practical material to use. It is about the cheapest way these rooms can be finished so that they will withstand the abuse they get. Other materials must be constantly cleaned and repainted. The marble used for such purposes is a very cheap commercial grade of marble.

The most unkind part of your speech, in my opinion, is that in criticizing the Architects you by inference criticize the Boards of Education, for it is the Board that engages the Architect.

I have built a great many schools, and I have never worked with a Board of Education that gave more time in the study of every detail of construction than did the Board of the Hyde Park Central School District. An almost endless number of meetings were held, are being held and will be held, all dealing with the proper selection of materials and equipment, considering first cost and maintenance. The first cost of any school building is not the true cost. The real cost is the cost over the period of the bond issue.

It is needless to add that a Board of Education serves its district without compensation, a tedious thankless job that takes them away from their families and interferes constantly with personal time for such diversions as they might wish to pursue. If there has been such a thing as one general order from the Board on the schools being built around Hyde Park, it is that every single item of cost be kept at as low a figure as is consistent with good sound engineering and architectural practice. This has been done.

I realize that you are an Educator and that you are also a member of the Education Committee of the New York State Assembly. I can also realize your concern over the ever-increasing Education budget. It would seem logical, however, that you would be proud that Boards from your own home district had been able to produce several schools at a very low cost of construction and that you would have been pleased to tell the School Boards Convention about them, rather than to criticize them severely.

From the discussion I heard I am sure that few, if any, took your statements very seriously; however, for one, I resent them deeply, and due to the fact that so much publicity was given to your address I am sending copies of this letter to Hon. Frank P. Graves, Commissioner of Education; Mr. Gilbert L. Van Auken, Director of the School Buildings and Grounds Division; Mr. W. A. Clifford, Executive Secretary of the Associated School Boards of New York; my Board of Education and your local press.
Professor Fite - 3

You will find enclosed a comparison of costs of a number of recent projects, handled by this office, including East Park. An examination of this will, I am sure, convince you that your criticism was unwarranted.

Very truly yours,

Robert R. Graham

cc: Hon. Frank P. Graves, Commissioner of Education, Albany, N.Y.
Mr. Gilbert L. Van Auken, Director, School Buildings and Grounds Division,
The State Education Department, Albany, N.Y.
Mr. W. A. Clifford, Executive Secretary, Associated School Boards of New York,
160 South Third Avenue, Mount Vernon, N.Y.
Mr. Ralph R. Smith, President, Hyde Park Board of Education,
Salt Point Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Poughkeepsie Evening Star

REG/S
Encl.
### COMPARISON OF COST

**RECENT P. W. A. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS**

**ROBERT R. GRAHAM**  
**ARCHITECT**  
**MIDDLETOWN, N.Y.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>$ BASE BIDS</th>
<th>CURRAGE</th>
<th>RATE CUBIC FOOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DUNDEE</td>
<td>$441,126.00</td>
<td>1,329,000</td>
<td>33.2¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSCOE</td>
<td>$304,103.00</td>
<td>850,000</td>
<td>35.7¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLES</td>
<td>$304,541.00</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>35.4¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWFIELD</td>
<td>$189,432.00</td>
<td>580,000</td>
<td>32.5¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWNSVILLE</td>
<td>$184,655.00</td>
<td>490,000</td>
<td>37.5¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTPELIER</td>
<td>$337,082.00</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>36.2¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOSHEN</td>
<td>$570,481.00</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>33.6¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST PARK</td>
<td>$462,878.00</td>
<td>1,585,000</td>
<td>29.33¢</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These projects have separate Auditorium and Gymnasium; others are combined.

**BASE BID**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRACT NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EXCAVATION</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GENERAL CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>$364,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HEATING AND VENTILATING</td>
<td>$46,973.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PLUMBING</td>
<td>$26,355.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ELECTRIC</td>
<td>$24,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$464,878.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$528,000.00  ESTIMATE - 4 BASE BIDS  
$462,878.00  FOUR LOW BASE BIDS (NO ALTERNATES)  
$65,122.00   UNDER ESTIMATE
November 15, 1939

My dear Mr. Linaka:

Will you be good enough to include the attached bill signed by Mr. Bie, in the amount of $20.00 with your monthly reports?

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand

Mr. Russell Linaka
R. D. #1
Van Wagner Road
Poughkeepsie
New York
Letter to the President--dated Nov 22, 1939
To the President
From Elmer Van Wagner

Re-Vanderbilt Estate

See: Van Alen folder-Drawer 3-1939
In re-Hyde Park or Dutchess County Barn of "unknown magnitude" with plans drawn by Henry Osthagen attached

See: Hall Roosevelt folder—Drawer 3-1939
October 31, 1939.

Dear Henry:

Thanks for yours of October twenty-seventh. Hall came in to see me this morning and I think I can simplify his lease plan. I will be home over election day and hope to see you then. Meanwhile, Hall will probably see you.

As ever yours,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie, New York.
TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

1GWU. RA. 40
Middletown, N. Y., December 2, 1939

THE PRESIDENT.

East Park well showed five gallons at 200 feet continued drilling and at 250 feet well showed 9 1-2 gallons per minute on bailing test. This is sufficient if constant. Will send more detailed report after pumping test has been made.

Robert R. Graham.
December 7, 1939.

Dear Mr. Graham:

The President asks me to thank you for your telegram of December fifth and to tell you that he is delighted that the bids are so good for the equipment and also for the landscaping.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Robert R. Graham, Esq.,
Middletown,
New York.
THE PResIDENT.

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y., December 5, 1939.

Equipment bids East Park last night highly satisfactory.
Total was about fifty-eight hundred under estimates with highest quality throughout.

ROBERT R. GRAHAM.
For letters and bills in connection with Linaka and Van Wagner and other misc Poughkeepsie bills which were used in connection with Income Tax for 1939

See: Personal Financial-Drawer 3-1940
January 11, 1940

My dear Mr. Linaka:

I am sorry the first statement you sent me did not reach me.

Enclosed is a check for $301.00, which will cover the monthly report for December.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. R. W. Linaka
R. F. D. 1.
Van Wagner Road
Poughkeepsie
New York
MONTHLY REPORT  
(December, 1939)

Wages for Men Working on Estate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lineska, Russell</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draiss, Frank</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curnan, Charles</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Materials Purchased

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>E. G. Hubbard-lubrication for truck</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>J. E. Andrews-twine for Xmas trees</td>
<td>$1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Montgomery Ward-oil and alcohol (truck)</td>
<td>$3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>300 shipping tags (Fitchett's)</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31</td>
<td>Renewal of tags on truck</td>
<td>$27.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$310.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Christmas trees at barn</td>
<td>$9.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Total</td>
<td>$301.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

400 Christmas trees sold to Grand Union for which they will send check directly to President.

Dear Miss Le Hand:

Will you please send the men their wages. This is the second report I have sent you, and I am wondering if it reached you.