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 HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN MORRIS A3

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BISTATE AGENCY FINANCES UNDER SCRUTINY

Port Authority reforms leave critics skeptical

Under pressure from governors, openness is promised

By **Larry Higgs**
 Staff Writer

NEW YORK — At the end of the Port Authority's March meeting, after passing reforms about how public information is shared and trimming nonunion worker compensation and benefits, vice chairman Scott Rechler proclaimed "the days of doing business as usual at the Port Authority are over."

How far future reforms need to go at

the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is likely to be the topic of a bistate legislative hearing scheduled for April 20 in Staten Island. But some activists and watchdog groups who have dealt with the agency said the days of business as usual aren't over at an authority with a reputation of not being very open with the public.

Critics say the agency's insular culture, disregard of public comment and foot-dragging in honoring requests for

public information have resulted in its fiscal and image problems, illustrated by the ongoing redevelopment of the World Trade Center site that has run at least an estimated \$7.7 billion over costs estimated in 2006, according to an audit by Navigant Consulting.

A sweeping policy that includes a one-year trial program of providing free public information, without charging for

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Construction continues on the Port Authority's new World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. LARRY HIGGS/STAFF PHOTO

100TH ANNIVERSARY OCEAN LINER'S SINKING

Titanic ties in Morris



The ocean liner Titanic leaves Southampton, England, on her maiden voyage on April 10, 1912. The ship sank after hitting an iceberg five days later. ASSOCIATED PRESS

7 with links to county were aboard; 6 of them survived

By **Abbott Koloff**
 Staff Writer

Karl Behr, a tennis player who once lived on Elm Street in Morristown, surprised the woman he loved by showing up on the Titanic to accompany her home. They ended up in a lifeboat together.

Daisy Spedden, who once lived on Morristown estate called Fair Oaks, wrote a diary about Titanic's sinking that was found by a descendent decades later along with a book she wrote for her little boy about the adventures of his stuffed bear.

Frank Dwan, an Irish fisherman, paid a little extra, seven pounds, to be a steerage passenger on Titanic instead of another ship because he couldn't wait to see his children in Morris Plains. His body was never found.

The day after Titanic sunk 100 years ago today the Daily Record reported six people with Morristown connections

"I shall never forget the sight ... nor the cries of the poor souls."

DAISY SPEDDEN, in her diary

were first-class passengers — Behr and the Spedden family, including two servants. They all survived. Later, Michael Duane of Morris Plains told newspapers that his father also was on the Titanic. Michael's last name had a different spelling because of a mistake made by immigration authorities.

Robert Douglas Spedden, 7, woke up in Lifeboat No. 3 on the morning of April 15, 1912, and spoke to his nurse, Elizabeth Margaret Burns, a woman he called Muddie Boons because he couldn't pronounce her name. He looked up as the sun rose to illuminate nearby icebergs.

"Oh, Muddie, look at the beautiful North Pole with no Santa Claus on it," he

said, according to his mother's diary.

Frank and Daisy Spedden, who were married in 1900 at the First Presbyterian Church in Morristown and later moved to Tuxedo, N.Y., had been traveling in Europe with their son, a nurse and a maid named Helen Alice Wilson. Their story was publicized after a third-generation descendant, cousin Leighton Coleman III, now 47, found Daisy's diary and other items in a dusty trunk at his grandparents house on Long Island in 1982.

"It was going to get thrown out," Coleman said last week.

He also found a book Daisy wrote for her son about his stuffed Stief polar bear and its adventures. "Polar The Titanic Bear, A True Story" was published 15 years ago.

Robert Douglas was the subject of a famous photo taken while on the ship, spinning a top on the deck, an image used

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Karl Behr and his wife, Helen. FROM THE BOOK "STARBOARD AT MIDNIGHT" PUBLISHED BY THE DARWIN PRESS INC.

Enhancements, new subscription model for the Daily Record, DailyRecord.com

By **Tom Donovan**
 and **James Flachsenhaar**

The New Jersey Press Media Group — which includes the Daily Record and DailyRecord.com — is beginning a new chapter in our 112-year history, bringing new layers of content to the watchdog reporting that has served as the bedrock

of our coverage.

In addition to enhancements in the newspaper, we're introducing new smart phone and iPad apps to reach you on your mobile phone, tablet and desktop computer.

The changes to our newspaper and website also will give our advertisers a multi-platform approach to reaching a

broader audience, and a suite of new digital marketing services to better connect with you, our readers.

Beginning in May, nonsubscribers will have limited access to articles on dailyrecord.com before being asked to subscribe. Current and new subscribers will have enhanced and unlimited access to our content 24 hours a day on all platforms.

We believe this new business model allows the Daily Record

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