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*The Luzerne*

VOL. XI NO. 1 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-

SHORT COURSES--SPRING

The Institute of Municipal Government offers a number of in-service training courses for municipal employees. These courses are designed to make available to employees the means of improving in the performance of their duties.

The courses being offered this spring are: Municipal Government Supervisors Course--a general course covering the duties, and responsibilities of elected municipal supervisors; Municipal Government Management Course--a basic course that provides municipal supervisors with a knowledge of the techniques of municipal management; Traffic Functions; Zoning Course--a course in the use of the planning tool designed for planning community growth; School Directors Course--a course on the powers, duties, and responsibilities of school directors; and Magistrates Course--a general review of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of magistrates and the criminal law required by magistrates in their office.

INTOXICATION AND LAW

Beginning on February 5, 1962, on alternate Mondays, a lecture series on Intoxication and Law will be presented by the Institute of Municipal Government. The series of lectures is sponsored by the following organizations: Luzerne Valley Motor Club, Police Executives Association, Luzerne County Police Chiefs Association, Luzerne County Association, the District Attorney's Office, and the Luzerne County Law and Library Association.

The series is open without fee to all interested members of the minor judiciaries, and to all persons concerned with law enforcement.

Topics included in this series are: Legal Aspects of Civil Liability, Legal Aspects of Criminal Law, Constitutional Aspects of Chemical Toxicology, and Examination Procedure.

# *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 1 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., JANUARY 15, 1962

## SHORT COURSES--SPRING SEMESTER

The Institute of Municipal Government will again conduct a number of in-service training courses for municipal officials. These courses are designed to make available to elected and appointed officials means of improving in the performance of their duties.

The courses being offered this spring semester include: Township Supervisors Course--a general course that reviews the powers, duties, and responsibilities of elected township officials; Traffic Management Course--a basic course that provides responsible police officers with a knowledge of the techniques necessary to improve police traffic functions; Zoning Course--a comprehensive study of the basic planning tool designed for planning commissioners, council members, and zoning administrators; School Directors Course--a general review of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of elected school officials; and Magistrates Course--a general review of the important points of criminal law required by magistrates in the proper fulfilling of their office.

## INTOXICATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Beginning on February 5, 1962, and continuing for six consecutive Mondays, a lecture series on Intoxication and Law Enforcement will be presented by the Institute of Municipal Government. This series of lectures is sponsored by the following organizations: The Wyoming Valley Motor Club, Police Executives Association, Northeastern Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association, the Luzerne County Magistrates Association, the District Attorney's Office of Luzerne County, and the Luzerne County Law and Library Association.

The series is open without fee to police, members of the Bar, members of the minor judiciaries, and others directly or indirectly concerned with law enforcement.

Topics included in this series are: Physiologic Effect of Alcohol, Legal Aspects of Civil Liability, Legal Aspect of Criminal Liability, Constitutional Aspects of Chemical Tests, Equipment Demonstration, and Examination Procedure.

## MONTCLAIR, N. J., TESTING PAPER REFUSE RECEPTACLE

Montclair, New Jersey, is testing the use of disposable bag refuse containers. The experiment, being conducted over a two-month period at 540 homes in the community, is the first United States test of this new method.

The purpose of the test is (1) to ascertain the feasibility of substituting easy-to-handle, disposable sanitary bags, for the present metal garbage can, and (2) to determine if the labor saved from loading and unloading the bulky metal cans will sufficiently offset the cost of the bags.

An official of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, a manufacturer of the product and sponsor of the project, said that this new method, called the Westvaco Refuse System, might change the garbage collection habits of the nation if the Montclair trial proves satisfactory.

The experiment takes a predetermined route "typical of the town's residential area" in central Montclair, said Harold Johnson, Montclair superintendent of service.

"A preliminary survey of the 540 households on the route indicated that 99% polled approved of the new system," said Johnson.

The survey was made by field workers of the paper company after Commissioner Robert G. Hooke, director of public works, announced last July that the town had agreed to the experiment "in the interests of improving present methods of garbage collection."

The center of the experiment is actually a chemically-treated double-layer paper bag which the company maintains is unaffected by rain, tear or wear. It is mounted on a permanent metal holder equipped with a hinged lid. Each bag can hold twenty to thirty gallons of refuse.

When full, the bag is simply lifted from the rack and tossed into the garbage truck, while a new one is left under the lid by the collector.

The cost of the paper bag, however, has not yet been determined.

The bags are to be purchased by the municipalities and provided free to the individual household, the Company said.

The paper bag trial was first conceived at the American Public Works Convention at the New York Coliseum in September, 1960, when a sanitation expert was invited from Stockholm to explain its usefulness, for such bags have been widely used in Europe, especially Sweden and England.

The West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company took the idea and immediately went into investigation of the garbage collection systems of a dozen cities along the East Coast.

Montclair was finally selected for the first trial, the Company said, because it has "an efficient refuse collection system, and a continuing program to seek improvement."

## BUYING BULK SALT GAINS POPULARITY

The storing of salt in bulk has become quite popular during the past three years in the Western Pennsylvania area. In municipalities where storage facilities do not exist, or where the seasonal bulk order is not sufficient to warrant renting facilities, officials have constructed bins, hoppers, sheds, and variations of these, mostly out of scrap materials.

In Penn Hills, a hillside bulk storage shed is rigged with a gravity flow chute to load spreaders quickly. In Mt. Lebanon, a salt room and chute principle permits the loading of a six-ton spreader in three minutes' time.

There are two major advantages to the buying of salt in bulk. First, it greatly reduces the material cost of salt and practically eliminates handling expense. Thus in the face of increased demands for more and faster protection against snow and ice, additional funds could be made available for purchasing additional equipment to aid in fighting snow. Second, buying salt in bulk greatly increases the efficiency in winter maintenance. The immediate availability of salt provides for quick application to slippery streets. In the case of light storms, icy coatings can be completely removed; if the storm gains in velocity, the salt will facilitate plowing by thawing the crusty layer of packed snow that forms over well-traveled highways.

Other Western Pennsylvania communities participating in a bulk salt buying program are Monroeville, Turtle Creek, Wilkinsburg, Westmont, and Johnstown.

## MUNICIPAL BOND MARKET

Revenue bonds have become increasingly popular in recent years. There are many advantages, as well as disadvantages, in this method of financing.

1. It is obviously sound and equitable that those deriving the benefit from the construction of the public improvement should pay the cost.

2. Many facilities, such as parking systems, are utilized by persons not living within the taxing jurisdiction where the facility is located. It is only fair that those persons contribute to the cost of the facility.

3. The necessity for certain capital improvements is not always immediately apparent to the public at large. Therefore, many economically desirable and financially feasible improvements would lag behind if revenue financing were not used to provide the funds.

4. By using revenue bonds to finance self-liquidating projects, municipal officials are afforded a greater degree of fiscal flexibility by reserving tax supported issues for projects of a more general public nature. This is of particular importance because of statutory limitations imposed on the amount of general obligation bonded debt which may legally be incurred.

As mentioned above, there are certain disadvantages to the use of revenue bonds:

1. Revenue bonds are frequently more costly in terms of interest since they are not secured by general tax support.

2. Excessive use of revenue financing may lead to circumventing debt limits and/or avoiding the necessity for voter approvals of specific debt authorization.

3. The absence of legal liability of a revenue bond as a claim against general fund money is clear but the moral responsibility remains.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Some people work so hard to make a living that they forget how to live.

The person who says youth is a state of mind invariably has far more state of mind than youth.

#### PUBLICATION

This News-letter, published monthly as a community service, originated in the Institute of Municipal Government of Wilkes College. Notes and inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, Institute of Municipal Government, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

# The Luzerne County News-letter

FEB 12 1962

VOL. XI NO. 2 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., FEBRUARY 15, 1962

#### LOCAL OFFICIALS DINNER

The third meeting of Luzerne County Local Officials, sponsored by the Institute of Municipal Government, will be held on Thursday, February 15, 1962, at 6:30 P. M. in the Wilkes College Commons.

The speaker for the evening will be Mr. Harry Butera, a realtor, from Norristown, Pennsylvania, who will discuss "VOLUNTEER PROPERTY INSPECTION." Mr. Butera was the initiator in 1949 of a volunteer property inspection project which succeeded in removing many unsightly conditions in the town. The Norristown Real Estate Board established a Committee on Local Improvements to cooperate with the building inspector, the fire department, and the health department. Mr. Butera's campaign started a chain reaction of local improvements which has led to the upgrading of 9,000 properties in the Borough of Norristown.

VOLUNTEER PROPERTY INSPECTION has been so successful that it has made the national headlines. It was the subject of a pamphlet published by the American Council to Improve Our Neighborhoods, Inc.

The Luzerne County Boroughs Association will hold a very important meeting following the remarks by Mr. Butera. Election of officers will take place. Every borough should be represented.

#### A CHECK LIST FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILMEN

1. Have I familiarized myself with the municipal ordinances and council rules?
2. Do I make an effort to understand reports and recommendations prepared for the council's information and action?
3. Do I find out if similar ordinances have been used successfully in other cities?
4. Am I open-minded about proposed ordinance amendments designed to make an ordinance more acceptable to citizens?

5. Am I familiar enough with the budget to know how well it fits the needs of the municipality for new services and capital improvements?
6. Do I think that the proposed budget will provide adequate salaries and wages for municipal employees?
7. Does the budget, in my opinion, meet the basic needs of the municipality for new equipment in the next fiscal year?
8. Do I give time to selling needed policies, services, and projects to the voters?
9. Do I carry my share of public relations in dealing with voters, the press, radio, and television?
10. Am I tolerant and fair-minded toward my colleagues in the council?

#### PARKING PROBLEMS

In the past, municipal officials have been reluctant to take the steps necessary for the removal of curbside parking where necessary or expedient, for the acquisition of sufficient off-street facilities to replace this curbside parking, or for providing for additional parking needs. As of this date, the Department of Highways has not seen fit to force municipalities along these lines. However, the Department has, under Sections 1103 and 1113 of the Vehicle Code, the power to remove or cause to be removed, parking along these major thoroughfares which are a part of the State Highway system. If, with the continued increase of traffic, the municipalities continue to ignore the seriousness of this problem, it may become necessary for the Department of Highways to take the authority vested in it through the laws stated and erect signs prohibiting this parking along State Highways in municipalities.

It is not the desire or the intention of the Department of Highways to infringe on home rule. However, if it becomes necessary for the Department to take this action, it will only be the result of the municipality's not doing its part to solve a problem and thus retain its cherished right of home rule. We sincerely hope that the municipality will become seriously interested and active on its part, since action by the Department will certainly not be one that will be met with any degree of approval by the local officials.

Parking meters were primarily designed to regulate parking. Unfortunately, they lend themselves readily to a source of income instead of a source of control. It is quite obvious to the Department of Highways after completing numerous parking surveys throughout the State, that in very few communities are the parking meters being used as

control items only. A few facts from these parking surveys indicate how rigid control could alter the use of curbside parking. We have found that the average shopper parking in a downtown business district consumes from a minimum of 23 minutes to a maximum of 38 minutes of curbside parking for shopping. The man or woman stopping in the downtown area for business purposes, such as paying bills, calling on customers, etc. consumes a minimum of 23 minutes to a maximum of 42 minutes. These same surveys indicate that a worker in a downtown area parking at the curb consumes a minimum of one hour, 9 minutes to a maximum of 3 hours, 5 minutes of curbside parking time.

The abuse of curbside parking encourages or creates another traffic hazard, that is, the illegal and double parker. We have found from our surveys that in a normal 8-hour period, we have an average of approximately 1,700 illegal parkers as to position, that is, at fire plugs, bus stops, etc. In these surveys, double parking has furnished from a low of 0.7 per cent to 6.8 per cent of the total parkers in the area.

Illegal parking is not due to the driver's having a complete disregard for your ordinances. It is primarily due to the insufficient number of parking spaces within a reasonable walking distance of the downtown section and the abuse of available curbside parking spaces by the long time parker. If this long time parker is discouraged and the spaces thus occupied become available for the short time parker, the illegal and double parking will be reduced and perhaps eliminated.

In the planning of off-street parking, it is essential that this off-street parking be provided as close to the demand for parking spaces as possible. Our surveys indicate that the people of Pennsylvania are not willing or in the habit of walking any great distance from the point of parking to their destination. We have found that the parker invariably will not walk much over 150 to 300 feet from his parked vehicle to his destination. Our surveys also show that 75 per cent of the people parking either legally or illegally park within 300 feet of their ultimate destination. This is extremely important to a community when considering the purchase and improvement of off-street facilities. The facilities must be within reasonable walking distance of the area they are designed to serve. If this distance is beyond a reasonable walking distance, not only will it be undesirable to the parker, but it may prove to be unsound financially.

#### WHAT'S THE "TAKE" FROM PARKING METERS?

The average parking meter hauls in about \$85 per year in coins, plus \$16 in fines, for an average total of \$100.

Since their initial appearance about 25 years ago, meters have spread to nearly 4,000 U. S. cities and 87 foreign countries. About

two million are now in use. Average number of meters for a city is 400, with annual grosses approximating \$40,000. Cost of meter operation totals about \$5,000.

#### REHABILITATION PROCEDURES ISSUED

The Urban Renewal Administration issued procedures to implement demonstration of rehabilitation techniques in urban renewal areas as authorized by the 1961 Housing Act.

"How-to-do-it-laboratories" on repair and rehabilitation of buildings may be set up and included as part of the cost of urban renewal projects.

"This is a brand new tool which should provide the impetus to upgrade entire neighborhoods," said Urban Renewal Commissioner William L. Slayton. "Rehabilitation is a complex, individualized project, varying almost from building to building, yet it holds the greatest potential for good housing.

"In the past, property owners have been hindered by lack of practical, experienced guidance. Now for the first time, local agencies can purchase rundown buildings and demonstrate on a larger scale the benefits of sound, economical, rehabilitation practices," Slayton said.

According to the procedures, the building must be in an urban renewal area and must be designated in the urban renewal plan for repair or rehabilitation for residential uses.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Some people are easily entertained. All you have to do is sit down and listen to them.

The world does not pay for what a person knows. But it does pay for what a person does with what he knows.

#### PUBLICATION

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# *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 3 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., MARCH 15, 1962

#### SERVICE AWARDS

Each year the Institute of Municipal Government presents a service award to those local officials who have contributed untiringly over a long number of years in the service of their respective governments. The Institute will offer these awards again this year in May at the Tenth Annual Dinner.

Included in those eligible for the award are school board members and secretaries, police, firemen, councilmen, mayors, solicitors, engineers, planning and zoning commissioners, and township supervisors. This award is given as an expression of appreciation for ability, wide experience, and continued efforts as an outstanding public servant over many years. Names of nominees should be sent to the Institute of Municipal Government by April 1, 1962.

#### NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER SERVICE

Pennsylvania is one of many states that has joined the National Driver Register Service, inaugurated by the United States Bureau of Public Roads. The Driver Register is a file on motor vehicle operators whose driving privileges have been withdrawn for driving while intoxicated or for conviction of a violation involving a traffic fatality.

States will furnish the names and data on drivers whose driving privileges have been withdrawn for the specified causes. The states may request the roads agency to check on applicants for new licenses. The file already contains information on nearly 11,000 drivers.

The neighboring states of Ohio, New Jersey, and Maryland have become part of this program.

#### REAL SAVINGS

The City of Dayton, Ohio, has saved an estimated \$137,000 per year for six years by the adoption of suggestions submitted by city employees. The city holds an annual suggestion contest and awards prizes

for the best suggestions. The prize money is furnished by the local associations of independent fire and casualty companies. The judging committee consists of current city officials, former city officials, and representatives from the city employees. Awards are presented at an annual award dinner.

#### TORT IMMUNITY ABOLISHED

Municipalities in Michigan no longer have common law immunity from tort liability, according to a September, 1961, decision of the Michigan State Supreme Court. By a five-to-three decision, the Court abolished the distinction between governmental and proprietary functions, and all activities of a municipality now can be considered proprietary in nature. Some of the activities which were formerly immune from liability and for which the governmental unit may now be held responsible in tort include: operation of police and fire departments, park and recreation activities, safety and engineering departments, and the maintenance of public buildings. It seems that many state courts are removing the distinction between the two types of functions.

#### FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1961

This legislation, which amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, provides: (1) transfer of the Act's administration from the Surgeon General to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; (2) the extension of Federal authority in water pollution abatement to all navigable waters and the granting of power to the Secretary of HEW to institute remedial action to correct interstate pollution and to enter intrastate situations at the request of the Governor of any State or other designated State agencies; (3) that the annual authorization for Federal grants to municipalities for the construction of waste treatment plants be increased from the present maximum of \$50 million per year to \$80 million for fiscal 1962, \$90 million for fiscal 1963, and \$100 million per year for the following four years; (4) that the single grant limit be raised to \$600,000 or 30%, whichever is the lesser, and in the case of joint projects that a ceiling of \$2.4 million be imposed; (5) the establishment of at least seven field laboratory and research facilities in various parts of the United States along with a special program dealing with the waters of the Great Lakes.

#### INSURANCE POLICIES

Olivette, Missouri, has revised and expanded its insurance coverage to provide better protection for the city government, especially in the area of bonding.

#### HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND PROPERTY CONSERVATION

Conservation and rehabilitation are the latest tools developed by a community level to up-grade entire neighborhoods.

The objective of the Norristown, Pennsylvania, Real Estate Board (in 1949) was to stem property deterioration in the community by using a Voluntary Property Inspection Program. A Committee of realtors was created to serve as volunteer inspectors, assisting the building inspectors, the fire department, the health department, and other law enforcement officials. A two-man team of volunteer inspectors examined every property in town for structural, physical, sanitary, and aesthetic conditions. Where the property clearly showed evidence of deterioration, the committee sent a form letter to the owner advising him of the conditions. Four repeat surveys have been conducted in order to remove many of the conditions which tended to down-grade the community in previous years.

Since 1956 a similar systematic program for eliminating blight and improving property conditions--Conservation and Rehabilitation--has been in operation in Newport Beach, California. A City Building and Safety Department carries out the program.

Both of these programs are dependent upon community-wide support. As with many similar programs around the country, the local newspapers in these two communities have given excellent support by publicizing the objectives and procedures of the program from its inception. The Volunteer Property Inspection Program in Norristown, Pennsylvania, has been the subject of a pamphlet by the American Council to Improve Our Neighborhoods, Inc. The latest step in the Newport Beach program has been for the city government and the local real estate board to jointly finance preparation of a pamphlet "Procedure for Improving Property in Newport Beach" which covers all aspects of property ownership. The pamphlet lists the city's departments and agencies where information can be obtained.

One fear that many property owners might have is that of increased assessment if they invest in improving the condition of their homes. In order to allay this fear, assessors in many communities have mailed statements to home owners pointing out the jobs that can be done without risk of higher assessments, and also some other improvements which will probably cause higher assessment. Typical of these statements is that of the City of Detroit, Michigan, which lists the two categories of home improvements.

The work which can be done without any assessment increase includes the following: repainting, repairing and replacing of existing

masonry; replacing plumbing and light fixtures (if not part of complete modernization); wiring modernization; added electrical outlets; outdoor electric cable and outdoor lights; new fences; lawns and landscaping; lawn sprinkler systems; new roof; outside and inside painting; plaster repairs; redecorating; repairing and replacing porches and steps; asphalt or asbestos siding placed over existing siding; new kitchen cabinets, cupboards, and counters; added closets and other built-ins; new ceilings; new wall surfacing; insulation, weather stripping; storm windows and doors; exterior awnings; repairing or replacing sidewalks or drives; automatic hot water; removing unused porch and dated exterior trim; add or replace gutter downspouts; put numbers on houses; light near house number; replace dilapidated sheds and garages with a rear lot parking area; pave rear lot parking area (500 feet or less); and adding of built-in vents.

The improvements which might bring an assessment increase are: change from single-family to multiple-family use; new basement replacing no basement or part of basement; added rumpus room; new rooms furnished in attic; any change resulting in larger building; complete modernization and conversions; forced air, automatic heating--replacing hot air gravity or stove; add extra bedroom, bathroom, fireplace, or porches where none existed.

If the Wyoming Valley area is to enjoy a good reputation as a fine place in which to work and live, to establish a respectable family, and to raise children under a healthful community environment, a forceful policy of maintaining and up-grading property will have to be adopted by local officials and civic-minded groups. This is the one way that this area can reflect a high degree of collective civic pride as will magnetically attract industry and people.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Ever notice how dogs win friends and influence people without even reading books?

If you educate a woman, you educate a family, says the old adage.

#### PUBLICATION

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# *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 4 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., APRIL 15, 1962

## TENTH ANNUAL DINNER

MAY 16th IS A RED-LETTER DAY. CIRCLE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The Institute of Municipal Government will hold its Tenth Annual Dinner for award winners at the Wilkes Commons on Wednesday, May 16, 1962, at 6:30 p. m. This dinner really brings to a climax the in-service training activities in local government which the Institute has conducted.

The main speaker of the evening will be the Honorable Benjamin R. Jones, Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Judge Jones is well known to local government officials, and therefore needs no introduction to many of us. His timely message will be on "The Role of the Local Official in the 1960's."

Certificates will be awarded to 217 local officials and local government employees. The number of in-service training classes has increased from one in 1951 to eleven in 1962. The first class, conducted by a member of the Political Science Department of Wilkes College, was held for borough officials in 1951. The number of certificate winners in each of the short courses for 1961-1962 is as follows: Small Arms--8; School Educational Secretaries--22; Planning--15; Penal Code--25; Highway Maintenance--20; Municipal Fire Administration--11; Township Supervisors--15; Traffic Management--12; Zoning--18; School Directors--26; Magistrates-Criminal Law--25; and Intoxication Lectures--20.

The In-service training activities of the Institute have intensified and increased in number over the last 10 years. It is quite evident that many local officials in Wyoming Valley and Luzerne County are making every effort to avail themselves of these short courses and thereby raise their performance standards. The awards dinner is, therefore, a fitting climax to their sincere efforts to widen their horizon and vision.

\* \* \* DON'T FORGET MAY 16th! \* \* \*

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT APPEAL LOST

A Commonwealth Court ruled against Wilkes-Barre earlier this month in the City's appeal from a Sanitary Water Board order to stop discharging untreated sewage into the Susquehanna River.

"We can see no valid reason why the City of Wilkes-Barre should be treated differently from any other city in the Commonwealth," the Court said in a 12-page opinion, adding:

"Many of the cities on the Susquehanna River south of it (Wilkes-Barre) will be affected and endangered by its continued dumping of raw sewage into the river."

The City appealed a board order to stop discharging untreated sewage by March 13, 1963, and to build a sewage treatment plant.

The City had argued that the board did not prove conclusively that City sewage was causing pollution.

Wilkes-Barre also argued that construction of a plant would be a waste of money because of subsidence or earth movements in the area due to underground mines.

Judge Walter R. Sohn, who wrote the opinion for the court--a special division of Dauphin County court handling State matters--said that the City failed to support the subsidence claims.

"Subsidence, we feel here, has been amply demonstrated to be nothing more than an engineering problem which can be solved by application to the proper engineering firms," Sohn said.

The court said there are many large cities subject to earth movement, adding:

"It cannot be that the whole west coast of California, where earthquakes are quite frequent, with its crowded populations have not provided proper sewage disposal plants despite the occurrence of these phenomena."

An appeal will be taken to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court by Wilkes-Barre City from the ruling of Sanitary Water Board requiring the City to stop discharging untreated sewage into the river by March, 1963. At a recent meeting of City Council, officials directed the City Solicitor to file the appeal. The Wilkes-Barre Board of Health unanimously recommended the City to file the appeal.

### LOCAL UNITS COOPERATE ON COMMON PROBLEMS

Six local governments in Lower Bucks County have had several years of successful experience in a cooperative approach to common problems through the Regional Cooperation Committee.

The Committee, which meets monthly, consists of designated representatives of the respective governing bodies. It conducts its own studies and prepares recommendations to be taken back to the respective local governments for approval, modification, or rejection. Although the Committee has no operating authority or funds, it has provided a formal mechanism for bringing these governments together on a planned basis. Organized in 1957, the charter members were the townships of Bristol, Falls, and Middletown and the Borough of Tullytown. Lower Makefield Township and Morrisville Borough have since joined.

The Regional Cooperation Committee was organized originally to deal with some of the street, road, and sidewalk problems caused by the large-scale housing development of Levittown. Since then the Committee has studied many municipal services, including agreements to divide boundary streets into sections for maintenance purposes; a study of refuse collection and disposal practices; contracts for joint animal control services; organization of a special training course for supervisory employees; joint purchasing of materials and supplies; and standardizing ordinances on building regulation and real estate operations.

Without resorting to legislation or governmental changes, the Committee provides a systematic way for local officials to pool their ideas and resources as well as their problems in the search for better coordination of services.

(Article by Charles M. Melchior, Township Manager, Middletown Township, BOROUGH BULLETIN, February, 1962.)

### NEW GO-TO-MARKET CENTERS PROGRESS IN FIVE CITIES

City-center renewal projects to revive "downtown" as the marketplace are at the advance planning stage in many cities, large and small, throughout the country. Progress reports from five of the cities, in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' Journal of Housing, list completion dates all the way from 1963 to the year 2000.

Scheduled for first building construction this summer, Charles Center in Baltimore will occupy, when finished, a 33-acre wedge-shaped site providing a concentration of key functions in the heart of downtown.

The Center will provide space for offices, retail services, and related commercial activities.

Fresno plans a "Core Superblock" for the redevelopment of its central business district. The 85-acre site will be closed to general vehicular traffic and laced with a pattern of pedestrian malls designed to create an atmosphere for shopping and buying. The superblock is the hub of a larger plan for a central core area of 2500 acres, which will include a civic center, convention hall, medical complex, institutional complex, and residential area. Expected completion date for the total plan: 1980.

Both of these redevelopment projects will rely on federal financial aid.

Plans for revitalizing the 350-acre central area of Binghamton, New York, call for two five-year phases and eight projects. The first, to be known as Valley Plaza, will be the expansion and renewal of the retail-commercial district with a new grouping of businesses around an open square of a seven-acre parcel of land. Subsequent projects include clearance for industrial redevelopment, and clearance, rehabilitation, and concurrent construction of new housing and recreation facilities. The second phase will include the clearance and renovation of the present downtown shopping area and the construction of a center of civic and government buildings. Financing will be shared three ways--26.2 million dollars federal aid; 10.5 million dollars state aid; and 7.2 million dollars local.

"Centre City" in San Diego, comprising approximately 1100 acres, will serve as the location for nine new city, state, and federal office buildings, including a civic center and convention hall, and numerous new privately built structures. Ground was broken late last spring on the first construction--a 24-story office building. Completion date of the final public construction is the year 2000.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

If the cigarette industry ever succeeds in making man think for himself, the government will be looking for a new source of revenue.

The modern boy scout helps an old lady across the street by slowing down his convertible.

#### PUBLICATION

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# The Luzerne County News-letter

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MAY 14 1962  
VOL. XI NO. 5 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., MAY 15, 1962

## TENTH ANNUAL DINNER

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\* \* \* DON'T FORGET MAY 16th! \* \* \*

## PROJECT 70 PLANNED TO SPUR STATE'S RECREATION INDUSTRY

Project 70, recommended to Governor Lawrence by the State Planning Board, is a four-point development program. Summarized briefly, the plan will:

1. Create three major federal recreation areas in Pennsylvania by 1970.
2. Ring the major population centers of the Commonwealth with "green belts" of parks and open spaces by 1970 financed by a \$70 million bond issue.

3. Acquire important fish and wildlife land and water areas with five million dollars allotted from the same bond issue to the State Fish and Game Commissions.

4. Establish a new year-round American vacation land in non-urban counties by diversifying recreation on existing State Lands.

Under an urban areas plan, population areas with more than

25,000 persons will be eligible for "open space" grants for use in development of land, water, fish and wildlife, historical or scenic areas.

The Planning Board recommended that the necessary amendment to the State Constitution authorizing the \$70 million bond issue be presented to the 1962 session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It is hoped to have the proposed amendment on the ballot for voter consideration in 1963 if it passes two separately elected legislatures.

#### CITY MODERNIZES SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND WATER SUPPLY

Philadelphia, which once poured thousands of tons of raw sewage solids into the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers each year, now treats 96% of all its raw sewage, besides millions of gallons daily from neighboring communities. Public support has helped.

In eight short years the city has stepped up its treatment of raw sewage from 82 million gallons daily to 355 million gallons, and the rise is still going on.

Spearheading this far reaching change has been a \$260 million program for modernizing the city's century-old sewage system; of the 2,352 miles of sewers, more than 800 are of brick, built before 1900.

Changes since 1940 have been impressive: public water supplies that looked bad, with offensive taste and odor, have become of generally high quality; raw sewage and industrial wastes discharges have been abated; boating and other recreational uses of the rivers have again become possible and enjoyable; where once hydrogen sulphide sewage fumes destroyed ships' paint, Philadelphia (third largest city of the United States) is now the nation's leading foreign trade center.

Credit for the change is due to local and state pollution control programs: the early and continuing interest of the Sanitary Water Board in upgrading stream conditions in the area, the awakened zeal of Delaware River and Schuylkill River communities, industries, and organizations, and Philadelphia's own program for sewage disposal and water supply improvements.

All of Philadelphia's public water supply comes from the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. The need for extensive measures to safeguard these sources from pollution was apparent.

Growing complaints about the water supply led to construction of five filter plants between 1901 and 1909.

In 1915 the city set up three main drainage areas for sewerage and treatment; by 1923 the first of three proposed treatment plants was built to protect the Torresdale water intake.

A sewer rental was initiated in 1944. The 125 million gallon Northeast Works was opened in 1951, replacing the 1923 plant. The Southeast and Southwest Plants (opened in 1954-55) are designed to handle 136 million gallons daily, each. Digested sludge is lagooned or, since May, 1961, hauled to sea.

#### "RANDOM SAMPLING" USED IN ROAD BUILDING

A scientific technique of quality control in road inspection is now in use in the State Department of Highways.

Developed by private industry and known as "random sampling," the technique is relatively new in road building.

The system eliminates the element of personal preference in deciding what section of a roadway should be tested for quality. Through random sampling, the best possible finished highway is more certain.

The Department, which is now perfecting state-wide use of the procedure, initiated the system in District 6, which comprises Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.

Department laboratory technicians and materials engineers were processing and testing the system prior to recommendation of the American Association of State Highways Officials in 1960 that random sampling be adopted.

State inspectors continue to make daily checks of the quality of work being done by contractors. Random sampling supplements, but does not replace, regular testing and inspections.

In random sampling all portions of the roadway have an equal chance of being selected for quality sampling. For example, the tester chooses a number from 1 to 100. He then finds the number on a special random sample table prepared by statisticians. The number finds the corresponding factors which tell distance from start of project and distance in the roadway. This point of the roadway is the portion to be tested. Personal preference is thus eliminated. The bureau of materials is working at full capacity in the use of random sampling on the larger projects, and plans to extend the process to all other projects in all districts.

## COOPERATIVE PURCHASING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Oldest and most successful of joint buying arrangements in metropolitan areas is the Cincinnati plan. In the depression year of 1931, the Cincinnati Bureau of Governmental Research put forward the idea as an economy measure. Purchasing agents for the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the Cincinnati Board of Education immediately began the cooperative action, and the program has continued for over twenty years. Savings on the first joint purchase of coal, amounting to some \$50,000, attracted the interest of two other public agencies, the Cincinnati public library, and the University of Cincinnati, both of which quickly joined the program.

United action to achieve greater economy and efficiency has not meant loss of independence of action by member agencies. Each participating unit maintains its own purchasing organization and operates independently where it is impracticable to make group purchases. In addition, there is also a body composed of the purchasing agents of each member, known as the Coordinating Committee of Purchasing Agents of Hamilton County.

A major cause of the committee's success was the manner in which it began its work. Instead of attempting an immediate survey of all articles which could be purchased collectively, the group discussed at weekly meetings the possibility of combining the pending contracts of each of the several units. When it was possible to develop common specifications for generally used articles, vendors were requested to submit bids on the total quantities desired by all members.

## THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Every man complains of his memory, but no man complains of his judgment.

Being young is a fault which improves daily.

## PUBLICATION

This News-letter, published monthly as a community service, originated in the Institute of Municipal Government of Wilkes College. Notes and inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, Institute of Municipal Government, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

# *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 6 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., <sup>June</sup> MAY 15, 1962

## ANNUAL DINNER

The Institute of Municipal Government held its Tenth Annual Dinner for award winners at the Wilkes Commons on Wednesday, May 16, 1962, at 6:30 p. m. This dinner was the culmination of the in-service training activities in local government conducted by the Institute of Municipal Government.

Certificates were awarded to 217 local officials and local government employees. The number of in-service training classes has increased from one in 1951 to eleven in 1962. The number of certificate winners in each of the short courses for 1961-1962 is as follows: Small Arms--8; School Educational Secretaries--22; Planning--15; Penal Code--25; Highway Maintenance--20; Municipal Fire Administration--11; Township Supervisors--15; Traffic Management--12; Zoning--18; School Directors--26; Magistrates, Criminal Law--25; and Intoxication Lectures--20.

It is quite evident that many local officials in Wyoming Valley and in Luzerne County are making every effort to avail themselves of these short courses and thereby raise their performance standards.

Excerpts from the speech of the Honorable Benjamin R. Jones, Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are enclosed with this Newsletter. His remarks point up the problems and challenges which local officials face today in the performance of their duties.

## A DECADE WITH THE INSTITUTE

At the Tenth Annual Awards Dinner, Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, Director of the Institute of Municipal Government, recounted the Philosophy which has guided the Institute throughout its years of community service.

"Training is an important trend in local government today. Training not only keeps local officials in touch with the latest developments in particular fields, it also provides the basic occupational education which is

so often lacking. Most local officials never have any preservice training for the work they do, and this is as it should be in a democracy. The beneficial results of inservice training can only be measured and demonstrated in the work that local officials do--not now and immediately, but next month, and next year, and in this coming decade.

"How will local officials perform their assigned tasks and duties? Will this be a better community as a result of the course work that has been taken? Will police training result in dropping of the traffic injury index? Will the schools improve? Will the streets be repaired in better fashion, at the lowest possible unit cost? Will fire losses drop? If local officials can just lose that blue-sky campaign promise and that hazy notion official duties and how to perform them, then this training has done you some good. You are to be commended for embarking on the training.

"There is still another reward and benefit that needs mention. The general public must put a premium on learning and training in Luzerne County. Pay scales and promotions must be based on ability, experience, and seniority, and training. In Luzerne County, training has been completely ignored. I am hoping for the day in Luzerne County when the general public recognizes the importance of training, when training is given its proper place in pay schedules, when the voters reward those who take training on their own time, when an incentive system is created for learning. Perhaps I'm dreaming again, but that's what I was told ten years ago when the Institute first started. I wonder what the next ten years has in store for us. Why don't all of you who are here tonight dream a little; can't tell where we might be ten years from now.

"One obligation of the local official of today is vision--not just the anticipation of tomorrow but the creation of tomorrow. A public official may identify the permanent forces in his community, he may have the will to act, and he may ever act with restraint, but unless he sets the goals of possibility, unless he sees the community not as it is but as it ought to be and can be, he is not fit to be a local public official. The central question in the mind of a good local public official is: what kind of community do I want to help build? What should it look like twenty-five years from now?

"Because most local officials have failed to dream, local governments set their sights too low--far too low. Far too many local governments behave as though their only functions were to repair a few hundred yards of streets, remove snow, etc. These activities may keep a treadmill going, but they will never build a civilized community. The main job of a housewife is not to dust under the bed, it is to raise a decent family. Therefore, local government must become an effective instrument of social policy. It must dream dreams about the future, and help those dreams come true. Why don't all of you here tonight dream a little. Can't tell where you might be ten years from tonight."

## THE BREADTH OF DEMOCRACY

Did you, too, O friend, suppose democracy was only for elections, for politics, and for a party name? I say democracy is only of use there that it may pass on and come to its flower and fruits in manners, in the highest forms of interaction between men, and their beliefs. . . in religion, literature, colleges and school. . . . .

Walt Whitman

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Institute of Municipal Government has established two training councils to assist in the development of instructional programs for police and firemen.

The purpose of the Police Training Advisory Council will be to evaluate the police training program of the Institute, identify the training needs of men from the area, and also to coordinate the training programs of the local governmental units. The Fire Training Advisory Council will assist in formulating the training program for volunteer and paid firemen, and coordinate the program of the Institute with that of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Volunteer Firemen's Federation, The Lewistown Fire School, and the local governmental fire departments.

## SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

The Susquehanna River Basin Association was organized last month at a luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association. The Association is a non-profit, non-political, impartial federation of organizations and individuals. Membership will be open to non-profit organizations and individuals along the Susquehanna River Basin. The organization has been established to promote citizen interest, understanding, and participation toward the orderly development of the water resources of the basin.

Voting membership is limited to representatives of non-profit organizations and institutions. Non-voting membership is available to all individuals who express an interest in the development of water resources.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, a number of resolutions were presented for adoption: acceptance by Board of Directors of the Charter and the corporate seal of the Association, authorization for the President and Secretary to seek federal Internal Revenue Service approval as a tax-exempt organization, and authorization for the President to name a committee to prepare a brochure that will explain the objectives and activities of the Association.

The Association expects to supply speakers on virtually every aspect of water resources of the Basin, to notify groups and individuals about hearings by Federal and State Officials on water resources problems, to arrange for regional and local meetings on water resources problems, and to discuss and maintain a full flow of information on the water resources of the Basin.

Eventually the Association hopes to see created an Interstate Committee for the Susquehanna River similar to the plan for the Delaware River Basin (INCOHANNA).

F. A. Pitkin, representing Governor David Lawrence at the Binghamton hearing of the Joint Government State Commission, stated that many of the economic ills of the region could be placed on the lack of development of the Susquehanna River and that the true potential of the Susquehanna River has never really been realized.

The three governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York have all expressed an interest in the development of a comprehensive plan for the development of water and land resources of the Susquehanna River.

This meeting of the representatives of the three states on the Basin water problems is the first step toward the complete development of a Basin with 2,000,000 people living in 300 communities.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A big man not only makes mistakes--but he is bigger than any mistake he makes.

Nowadays the only males who boss the household are less than three years old.

#### PUBLICATION

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## *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 7 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., JULY 15, 1962

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Public Services Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has initiated a series of informal meetings with local officials of 15 communities under orders by the Sanitary Water Board to abate stream pollution. The purpose of the meetings is to review and appraise the whole sewage disposal program in Wyoming Valley in the light of developments and court decisions since completion of the Albright and Friel Report of 1954. The Committee, steeped with background information that it has accumulated over the last 12 years, hopes that as a result of these informal meetings a joint cooperative effort can be revived toward the solution of a problem that has affected heavily Wyoming Valley's economic and industrial progress.

According to a recent statement by the Honorable Maurice K. Goddard, State Secretary of Forest and Waters, State joblessness can be tied to pollution of rivers. Dr. Goddard, speaking at the National Symposium on the Control of Coal Mine Drainage, stated, "If you were to draw a map of Pennsylvania's polluted streams and another of the State's depressed regions, and superimpose the two, you would find that both areas correspond exactly. Industries simply will not move into an area with polluted streams. While stream pollution may not be the only cause for unemployment, no steps can be effective in correcting the situation until the streams are cleaned up."

According to Representative Harris G. Breth, Chairman of the Joint State Government Commission, stiff new legislation will be introduced in the coming session of the General Assembly to protect Pennsylvania's public water supply.

#### TRENTON SAVES ON FIRE INSURANCE

The City of Trenton, N. J., (population 114,167), has changed its form of property insurance coverage to the new public and institutional property form. This is a specific class of fire insurance risk designed for institutions that serve the public, such as governmental

units, churches, colleges, hospitals, and schools. The change has resulted in a refund of \$24,968.54 in current insurance premiums, and will result in savings in premium dollars in future years.

#### LOOK WHO'S TALKING

The Civil Service Commission of a large city was holding a public hearing on the request of an operating agency to remove one of its positions from the competitive service.

The Director of Examination testified that it would be practical to hold a competitive examination. Despite this, the Commission by a 2-1 vote placed the position in the non-competitive class after the next speaker declared:

"It is desirable to have a man experienced in the performance of the duties. If a competitive employee were engaged, he could not be disposed of so easily as a non-competitive employee in the event the performance was not up to the desired standard."

The speaker was the President of the Civil Service Commission.

William Brody  
Philadelphia Department of Public Health

#### SIMON APPEAL

Under the first class township code, assessment of benefit for sewer construction may be made only against properties "abutting on the sewer." Where boundary of a lot terminates in the center of a street, that lot does not abut on the sewer and, under the First Class Township Code, is not subject to an assessment for benefits. The question of whether the property actually benefits by the sewer is irrelevant, since the law provides that only abutting properties can be assessed for benefits.

In a case handed down by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on January 2, 1962, the Court was faced with the question: When do properties abut on a sewer? The sewer was laid out on the other side of the street across from the properties and beyond the dividing line in the middle of the street. Since the boundaries of the lots in question in the case terminated in the center of the street and the sewer lines were laid out beyond the middle line on the other side of the street, the Court

stated that, in accordance with authorities in this State, the properties do not abut the sewer as required. In the instant case the sewer laid does intervene beyond the center of the street and the line of the sewer on the other side of the street. It should be stated that in this case there is no authority for assessment of properties on both sides of the street.

Section 2408 of the Act of 1931 (P. L. 1206) specifically states that the assessment is to be made "upon the several properties abutting on the sewer"--not on the street on which the sewer is placed. The Court went on to state that to abut means "to touch. . . . to terminate, or lean against at a joint of construction."

The Supreme Court refuses to effectuate by judicial pronouncement the assessment of all properties touching the street accommodating a sewer system. Abut must mean actual joining. The Court inferred that the amount of benefits accruing to the properties by having the sewer line open for their accommodation, whether substantial or not, is irrelevant since assessment can only attach the abutment.

#### NEW PERFORMANCE REPORT

Park Ridge, Illinois (32,659), has adopted a new performance rating system for city employees to replace the former graphic trait scale. The new and simplified version was adopted to overcome the problems of "secret" ratings, lack of standardization, and difficulty in standardizing job elements. The new performance rating system provides only six job factors with four possible evaluations: generally superior, as expected, not as expected, and unsatisfactory. The new system places responsibility directly with department heads for recommendations for salary increases, and they are encouraged to provide descriptions and explanations for recommendations.

#### GLASS DOOR ORDINANCES

A safety ordinance regulating sliding glass doors was adopted recently in Seattle, Washington. As reported in Western City Magazine, the ordinance was needed to meet the problem of increasing popularity of sliding glass doors in residential construction and the accidents caused by shattered glass. The Seattle standards require that glass in sliding door installations must be one of the following: approved laminated safety glass, approved one-quarter inch or heavier wired glass, or approved one-quarter inch or heavier tempered glass.

Similar ordinances have been adopted by Kent and Bellevue, Washington, and all three ordinances exclude French doors and multiglass paneled doors.

#### FIRE-POLICE REORGANIZATION

Dual-purpose police officers are being trained in Peoria, Illinois, to provide hosemen and backup services at fires. Forty policemen have been assigned to firefighting duties for 1962, and these men receive an annual salary of \$5,902 as compared with \$5,590 for regular policemen and firemen. The dual-purpose policemen serve in 10 districts and perform regular police duties until there is a fire incident. Fire response also is provided by a fire truck with a captain and driver and by a fire department flying squad of three men riding with the assistant chief and his driver. Thus any fire alarm brings a minimum of 10 men and three pieces of fire equipment. The reorganization was undertaken largely to meet mounting departmental costs. Provision for 40 dual-purpose officers allows a reduction of 40 positions in the fire department itself. This reduction is being accomplished by allowing the budgetary authorization for vacant positions to lapse, by resignations and retirements, and finally, as needed, by layoffs. This represents a reduction in the total authorized strength in both departments (310 positions) of about 13 per cent.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

If you want a job done, give it to a busy man. He'll have his secretary do it.

Conceit is what makes a little squirt think that he is a fountain of knowledge.

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## *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 8 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., AUGUST 15, 1962

#### SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE

The Second Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will again provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among the various organizations and individuals concerned with the solution of the more practical problems related to the social and economic well-being of our area. The CONFERENCE will bring together all those people interested in present and future planning for the area. It is designed to set a pattern for continuing cooperative efforts among local government officials, builders, realtors, industrialists, developers, and interested citizens.

In examining the more vital problems of our area, the sponsors of the COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE hope to benefit from sharing experiences with nationally known authorities who will participate in the CONFERENCE with us.

The Second Annual COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE will be held at Wilkes College on Wednesday, September 26, 1962.

Watch for the final program announcement and registration form. DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

#### COOPERATIVE PURCHASING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Oldest and most successful of joint buying arrangements in metropolitan areas is the Cincinnati plan. In the depression year of 1931, the Cincinnati Bureau of Governmental Research put forward the idea as an economy measure. Purchasing agents for the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the Cincinnati Board of Education immediately began the cooperative action, and the program has continued for over twenty years. Savings on the first joint purchase of coal, amounting to some \$50,000, attracted the interest of two other public agencies, the Cincinnati public library, and the University of Cincinnati, both of which quickly joined the program.

United action to achieve greater economy and efficiency has not meant loss of independence of action by member agencies. Each participating unit maintains its own purchasing organization and operates independently where it is impracticable to make group purchases. There is also a body composed of the purchasing agents of each member, known as the Coordinating Committee of Purchasing Agents of Hamilton County. Through all the years of its activity, and despite the magnitude of its achievements, this coordinating committee has never had specific legal authorization. Rather, it has been supported by the voluntary cooperation of its combined membership.

A major cause of the committee's success was the manner in which it began its work. Instead of attempting an immediate survey of all articles which could be purchased collectively, the group discussed at weekly meetings the possibility of combining the pending contracts of each of the several units. When it was possible to develop common specifications for generally used articles, vendors were requested to submit bids on the total quantities desired by all members. As experience increased the following procedure evolved:

1. Standardization of specifications for major commodities as a continuing process.
2. Re-education of bid forms and price inquiry to a single standard for all the units, to eliminate possible misunderstanding with vendors.
3. Establishment of uniform legal conditions in contract bid forms.
4. Estimation of all departmental needs by each unit, so that purchases of a year's supply could be made at one time.
5. Adoption of uniform contracting dates by all units.

As far as possible, the work of negotiating the joint contracts is divided among the agencies. Thus, bids may be taken and contracts made by any one of the members. Usually the unit requiring the largest amount of a particular item takes bids for it, although consideration is given to the work load and capacity of the various offices.

#### NEW YORK TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE

Experience in the first state mandatory training program for local police officers has obtained widespread and wholehearted acceptance and

cooperation in New York, Orrell A. York, Executive Director of the state's Municipal Police Training Council for the program reports in a recent issue of State Government, journal of the Council of State Governments.

The New York Municipal Police Training Council Act, passed in 1959 after more than 14 years of state and local cooperation, aims at the utilization of broad state facilities at the request of the local representatives, to assist them to do a better job of police training than they could do alone. The act provides for an 8-man Municipal Police Training Council appointed by the Governor as an advisory and policy board for the program and a full-time Executive Director whose most important task is to supervise procedures for certification of training schools and graduates of such schools.

Under this act each police officer appointed since July 1, 1960, is required to satisfactorily complete an approved Basic Training Course as a condition of permanent appointment. The first task of the new Council was to formulate a curriculum for this Basic Training Course. The result was a minimum requirement of 80 hours' training in 17 subjects, a few of which are: The Role of Law Enforcement, Police-Community Relations, Firearms, Civil Rights, Patrol Function, Handling of Juveniles, and Code of Criminal Procedure.

Training schools are held on an area or local basis and, since the beginning of the program, 35 basic schools have been approved and certified by the Executive Director of the State Council. A total of 822 new police officers from 267 municipal police agencies have completed the requirements for graduation. Instructors have been drawn from 321 different agencies. Since most classes are held in various types of public facilities and instructional services are free, the cost of the program to the municipalities involves only the salary of the men during the training period, 200 rounds of ammunition and, in some cases, travel expenses to and from school.

The Council is convinced, according to Mr. York, that police training can be improved through the medium of a state-mandated program without removing the important ingredient of local initiative and without unduly imposing the will of the state on the localities. He says the Council envisions further development in the areas of in-service training, administrative training, and college-level courses in police science and administration.

#### REAL ESTATE CERTIFICATIONS

Real estate owners in Philadelphia now must furnish property

buyers with city-issued certificates indicating whether the property being purchased is free of any violations which have been cited by the city. The certificates are issued by the department of licenses and inspections at \$5 each. The city is complying with a recently enacted state law requiring certification that property offered for sale is not in violation of the city's housing, fire, building, or zoning codes. Under the law a buyer not receiving such a certificate can demand the refund of the purchase price. The city reports that requests are coming in at a rate of 100 per week and are increasing. The purpose of the law is not to prevent transactions but rather to make purchasers aware that violations exist.

#### BROADENS PROMOTIONAL EXAMS

Covina, California, has added the factor of supervisory ratings to promotional examinations to help evaluate candidates. Previously only written and oral examinations were given, and each was weighted at 50 per cent of the total. Now the written examination, oral examination, and supervisor's rating are considered in that order and each is weighted at one-third. The supervisor of each person qualified to take the promotional examination is given an employee evaluation form. This evaluation is placed in a sealed envelope, and it is not opened until after the written and oral examinations are completed and scored. The new procedure allows for consideration of reliability on the job and contributions to carrying out the department's program.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The girl who searches too long for a smart cookie is apt to wind up with a crumb.

One of the troubles with small talk is that it usually comes in large doses.

#### PUBLICATION

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# *The Luzerne County News-letter*

VOL. XI NO. 9 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA. SEPTEMBER 15, 1962

#### SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY GROWTH CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Community Growth Conference will be held at Wilkes College on Wednesday, September 26, 1962.

Last year's Conference, the first to be attempted in this area, provided an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among the various organizations and individuals concerned with the solution of the more practical problems related to the social and economic well being of the area. Several hundred delegates from Northeastern Pennsylvania attended in an attempt to scrutinize the more pressing problems which all communities face in a pace-setting era. Sponsors of the Conference will provide an opportunity to share experiences with nationally known authorities who will appear on the discussion panels.

Included among the topics to be discussed at this Second Annual Conference are the following: The Key to Community Growth; What Local Governments Can Do to Promote Community Growth; What the Individual Can Do to Promote Community Growth; and Community Growth -- A Partnership.

DON'T MISS THIS MEETING! MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR.

#### SHORT COURSES

The Institute of Municipal Government will again conduct a number of in-service training courses for municipal officials. These courses are designed to make available to elected and appointed officials the means of improving in the performance of their duties. The courses are presented in cooperation with the Public Service Institute, Department of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The courses being offered this fall semester include: Assessors Course, an advanced course designed for assessors with prior experience and familiarity with the tax assessment field; Personnel Supervision, an introductory course in understanding the major role that the supervisor must play in the management of personnel; and Municipal

Fire Administration, a comprehensive course for command officers covering the basic techniques of departmental organization and management. In addition, under the sponsorship of the Juvenile Court of Luzerne County and the Department of Public Welfare, a course in youth control will be offered. This is a practical course in delinquency control for law enforcement officers.

#### BORROWING LAW AMENDMENT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A 1961 state law that would have made it easier for municipalities and school districts to float loans without voter approval was declared unconstitutional by Pennsylvania's Supreme Court.

The unanimous decision of the six justices--there is one vacancy--struck a harsh blow at many school districts and municipalities. The law would have permitted increased borrowing for needed capital improvements.

A spokesman for the Department of Internal Affairs, which must approve all bond proceedings, said that no school district or municipality has issued general obligation bonds under the 1961 act.

The spokesman termed the court's action "a disaster." The department and administration had supported the bill when it appeared before the Legislature.

The high tribunal took original jurisdiction of the taxpayers suit filed against the school district of Baldwin Township, Allegheny County. The district last January 10 authorized sale of \$2.5 million worth of bonds.

Chief Justice John C. Bell Jr. agreed, contending the 1961 law--which amended the 1941 municipal borrowing law--was "clearly unreasonable and was merely an obvious attempt to circumvent the constitution and double or triple the borrowing capacity of municipalities."

The key phrase in the illegal amendment, said Bell, was in defining "assessed value" of taxable property as "market value." This, in effect, increased the debt limit of school districts, he said.

The constitution provides that a municipality can borrow only up to two per cent of assessed valuation of taxable property without voter approval.

#### N. J. CITIES LIABLE FOR POLICE TRAINING

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in a ruling on a civil suit with wide implications, has stated that a municipality is responsible for training its policemen to handle firearms and is liable for acts of negligence committed by an employee in the line of duty.

The suit resulted from an injury to a teenager caused by a ricocheting bullet fired by a reserve policeman during a disturbance. The court noted that the policeman had never received training in the use of firearms. The decision upheld a lower court verdict against the city on the theory that the policeman had been inadequately trained.

A Court of Appeals decision has upheld a verdict against the City of Newark on this same theory in a case in which a policeman's revolver discharged as he was laying it on a table at home and the bullet entered the back of a girl in the adjoining apartment.

The Municipal Authority, publication of the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, reports that at least four other suits have been started in New Jersey against municipalities based on this theory of inadequate training of police officers.

#### CITY TAKES STEPS TO DEVELOP PROPERTY CONSERVATION

Since mid-1956, Newport Beach, California (pop. 26,564) has developed a systematic program for eliminating blight and improving property. Called "Conservation and Rehabilitation," or C-R, its objectives are to halt progressive decay of older buildings, to correct structural and safety hazards, to reduce overcrowding by preventing "bootlegged" additions and alterations to buildings, and to prevent illegal subdivisions and alterations of buildings for living quarters.

The city building and safety department carries out the C-R program and uses the local building code and the state housing act. Initial attention was given to the demolition of unoccupied buildings. Priority currently is being given to occupied structures which are substandard and must be either rehabilitated or demolished. In addition, occupied buildings with excessive occupancy are being identified.

The program is dependent upon community wide support. All building inspectors have been trained not only on law violations but also on tactful approach and firm follow-through with property owners. Their training is continued at weekly staff meetings with discussion of common

problems and techniques. Each building inspector carries an identification card and wears a badge, and each inspector shows the card when talking to a property owner, without being asked to do so.

Local newspapers have given excellent support by publicizing the objectives and procedures of the program from its inception. The latest step was for the city government and the local real estate board to jointly finance preparation of a pamphlet, "Blueprint for Improving Property in Newport Beach," which covers zoning, building and housing codes, off-street parking, and other aspects of property ownership. The pamphlet is liberally illustrated and lists the city departments and agencies where further information can be obtained. --Robert A. Glenn, Director of Building and Safety, Newport Beach.

#### BEATITUDES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Blessed are they who notify the Clerk of the Board when they must be absent from the meeting, for they shall not be held accountable for his ulcers.

Blessed are they who do not talk over the time-of-day during meetings (nor read the daily newspaper), for they shall obtain knowledge of what's going on.

Blessed are they that listen, for they shall inherit the right to go home early for some sleep.

Blessed are they who follow the agenda, for they shall see business finished on time. --American School Board Journal.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials.

All some girls expect from the business world is a husband to take them out of it.

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# The Luzerne County News-letter

VOL. XI NO. 10 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., OCTOBER 15, 1962

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Decision of the municipalities to favor joint action, in which they would form a Valley Authority and designate their own community leaders to serve on it, was preceded by a lengthy appraisal of such a joint authority and a county authority. Advantages and disadvantages of each were evaluated. Concluding this phase of the meeting, the communities were polled and the voting was unanimous in favor of the joint method of approach.

There was similar unanimous approval of a formula to determine the number of representatives each community could name to the governing body of the authority. The formula adopted would permit each community one representative for each 15,000, or fraction thereof, of its population. In most cases each community would have one designee. However, Kingston would be entitled to two, Nanticoke two, and Wilkes Barre five.

The spirit of the meeting was such that discussion regarding the number of representatives to serve was minimized, each commun-

ity recognizing that the enormous problem faced by the Valley and the benefits it stands to gain through joint action outweighed in significance the mechanics involved in the number of individuals who would guide the authority.

Greater stress was placed upon the fact that each community will be represented by at least one individual, it being the responsibility of the community to find a capable dedicated and civic-minded citizen to be its designee.

Municipalities represented at the meeting were: Wyoming, John Shoemaker, Mayor Jack Dempsey, George Metcalf, Council President Leo Chiavacci; Plymouth, Mayor Donald Hosey, President John Barney; Plains, Clem Falchek, John Stasik; Pittston, Peter Butera, Mayor Robert Loftus, Solicitor George Spohrer.

Exeter, Mayor Dan Ripa, Anthony Pace; Kingston, Mayor Bert Husband; Nanticoke, John Dudrick; Jenkins Township, George Kemezis, Simon Kapoczcius; West Pittston, R. Nelson Myers; Forty Fort, Arthur Piccone, Jr; Swoyersville, Anthony Wallace, Stephen Gavlick; Wilkes-Barre, Mayor Frank Slattery, Council members Mrs. Ethel A. Price, Edward J. White, Luther Balliet, Engineer Guy B. Walker.

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Municipalities in Wisconsin--and school districts as well--will no longer be immune from tort claims under the old doctrine that "the King can do no wrong." In the case of Holytz vs the City of Milwaukee, involving a little girl who was injured in a tot-lot public playground, the

Supreme Court of the state disavowed the long-standing precedents and ruled that in the future all public bodies of the state must accept responsibility not withstanding the legislature's failure to pass corrective laws. In its decision, the Court said:

"The rule of municipal tort immunity is knee-deep in legal esoterics: e. g., governmental function vs proprietary function; relationship of governor to governed. The dogma of the rule is so deeply ingrained in our case law that we deem it necessary to consider the historical origins of the rule and some of the critical assaults which have been made upon it.

The rule of sovereign immunity developed in this country from an English doctrine and has been applied in the United States far beyond its original conception. The doctrine expanded to the point where the historical sovereignty of kings was relied upon to support a protective prerogative for municipalities....

Perhaps clarity will be afforded by our expression that henceforward, so far as governmental responsibility for torts is concerned, the rule is liability--the exception is immunity. In determining the tort liability of a municipality it is no longer necessary to divide its operations into those which are proprietary and those which are governmental. Our decision does not broaden the government's obligation so as to make it responsible for all harms to others; it is only as to those harms which are torts that governmental bodies are to be liable by reason of this decision."

In making this decision, Wisconsin joined Illinois, California, Oregon, and New York in setting up responsibility for the safe condition and operation of public buildings and playgrounds. School districts will be liable for damages for the torts of their officers, agents, and employees in the course of conducting the business of the schools. The only protection which the school districts will have will be adequate insurance. ---William C. Bruce, "The American School Board Journal, August, 1962."

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VOL. X/NO. 11 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., NOVEMBER 15, 1962

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

The State Highway Department's Bureau of Materials Testing and Research, in effect watch dog of the taxpayers' dollar to guarantee all purchases of road materials meet rigid specifications, broke records last year in the number of samples analyzed for items used in construction and maintenance. Samples of asphalt, sand, cement, paint, steel and fuel oils were examined in the five laboratories operating in this important bureau, in Harrisburg, totaled 39,402 last year. This is 4,853 more than the 1960 figure. In addition to routine testing of road and bridge materials, the laboratories carry on extensive research projects to improve better and more durable highways and bridges.

Created in 1914 as an essential adjunct to the State Highways Department, the Bureau has occupied the large building in the shadow of the State Street Bridge since August, 1930.

Mobile field laboratories using surveying Corp buses cover the 67 counties under the supervision of materials engineers.

The five separate laboratories in the Harrisburg installation are: chemical, asphalt, soils, sand and cement and physical. Each utilized equipment ranging from ovens producing intense heat, zero-degree freezing chambers and intricate distillation apparatus, to a compression machine with a capacity of 400,000 pounds to determine the structural strength of concrete and the tensile strength of steel.

#### STUDY OF COMPACT CARS FOR POLICE

Robert K. Lowry, City Purchasing Agent, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has made available to the National Institute of Government Purchasing a detailed report on the use of six compact automobiles in the police department. The purpose of the study was to determine if an automobile of the compact size was suitable and satisfactory for the rugged use to which vehicles are subjected in police patrol duty. The report is divided into five sections dealing with: Driver Reaction, Cost of Gasoline, Maintenance Expense, Depreciation, and Total Costs and Summary.

In concluding his report, Mr. Lowry writes: "It is doubtful if the annual savings of \$2,709.40 justifies the use of the compact car in police patrol duty when considered in the light of efficiency, morale, and safety of the police department. The results of this report should not be used to judge the compact vehicle for use in other than police patrol duty in the city. It is believed that in other services the compact will prove to be efficient, economical, and desirable." Copies of this interesting and detailed 19-page study are available from NIGP.

#### MOTOR SCOOTER

Washington Court House, Ohio (pop. 12,388), has had two years of successful experience with a motor scooter as an aid in control of 539 parking meters. The scooter replaced a three-wheel motorcycle. In previous years, annual operating costs for the motorcycle had averaged \$400 to \$450. Total operating costs for the motor scooter have been about \$40 per year. In 1958, the last full year with the motorcycle, meter collections totaled \$37,000. In 1959, collections increased to \$44,000, and in 1960 to \$46,000. In addition, about 65 per cent more parking tickets are being issued, and parking turnover has increased 75 per cent. Other reasons for better meter enforcement are that one police patrolman has been assigned full time to this work, and the motor scooter is more adaptable and versatile in traffic so that more meters can be inspected during a tour of duty.

#### CLOVERLEAF INTERCHANGES

Cloverleaf interchanges, not too long ago regarded as the height of achievement for handling traffic on high speed highways, already are becoming obsolete! Fewer such interchanges will be constructed as highway design engineers discover better--and safer--ways to get traffic on and off today's modern highways.

Engineers report that the federal interstate highway program is hastening departure of the cloverleaf design. Where two interstate routes meet a direct connection or semi-direct connection interchange is required. These eliminate 270-degree turns common to cloverleaves. To turn left on a cloverleaf the motorist must traverse a 270-degree loop, always moving right. This is difficult in many cases because of the centrifugal thrust on the automobile.

On a direct connection interchange the motorist makes a 90-degree turn to the left by means of a gentle curve to the left. A semi-direct connection interchange is even better because unlike the direct connection the motorist ends up in the right (slow moving) lane of the highway he wants to use instead of the left (fast moving) lane. This is accomplished by constructing a bridge over to the highway to be entered. Highway designers thus sacrifice money for safety. The interstate program under which the federal government supplies 90% of cost of construction and acquiring right-of-way makes that worth while to the highway department.

Because direct and semi-direct interchanges require more elaborate layouts and more structure than the cloverleaves, they are more expensive and take longer to construct. Often they require two, three, or four-level structures. But the directional types reduce travel distance, increase speed and vehicle capacity, avoid loss of direction as occurs in driving a loop, and eliminate weaving. Weaving occurs when a vehicle leaving the main highway for a left turn has to pass cars coming onto the main highway from the intersecting road before the passing car itself leaves the main road. This often causes much dangerous shifting from lane to lane.

Cloverleaves are still being used, however, and are regarded as satisfactory when the traffic is not heavy on main and subsidiary roads. The crossing of traffic streams moving in the same general direction is not so common then.

An advantage of the cloverleaf is its compactness in comparison with the sprawling directional type interchange. This makes the cloverleaf advantageous in urban areas. Simplest and cheapest type of inter-

change is known as a diamond design. This requires on and off ramps and only one structure. Its advantage is that it requires left turns across traffic for some vehicles entering and leaving subordinate highway. Diamond interchanges are used mostly where the main highway crosses a secondary road.

Direct and semi-direct interchanges are being used in urban areas where traffic on main and subsidiary roads is heavy. Examples in Pennsylvania are City Line Interchanges of the Schuylkill Expressway in Philadelphia and Brady Street Interchange of the Penn-Lincoln Parkway in Pittsburgh.

#### ONE-WAY STREETS PAIRED IN OREGON

Travel time and accident rates were reduced in the majority of cities in Oregon following adoption of one-way pairs of streets, the Highway Research Board reported recently. Travel time was reduced in all five situations where before-and-after data were available. Accident rates (per million vehicle-miles) dropped in seven cities, 18.2 to 56.3%, while the rate remained unchanged in four cities. Accident severity rates were cut in five cities, 26.7 to 53.7%, with seven cities unchanged. Accident cost rate (dollars per million vehicle-miles) was lower in nine cities, down 2.5 to 63.0%. Increased occurred in three, but the average for all 12 dropped from \$12,000 to \$9,000 or 25%.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

It's wasted effort to sit up and take notice if afterward all you do is sit there.

People who live in glass houses certainly do make interesting neighbors.

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VOL. XI NO. 12 WILKES COLLEGE, WILKES-BARRE, PA., DECEMBER 15, 1962

## HISTORY OF THE WYOMING VALLEY SANITARY AUTHORITY

As long ago as 1944 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ordered Wyoming Valley communities to provide primary sewage treatment plants. Nothing happened and the matter was placed in the hands of the Attorney General. One year later, Wilkes-Barre pleaded for time to bring about regional cooperation for the sake of economy. This unification effort ended in failure.

Between 1946 and 1952 no progress was reported, but a number of communities were cited before the Sanitary Water Board.

In the fall of 1951 the Chamber of Commerce expressed its recognition of the urgency of the situation by creating the Public Services Committee. The Committee requested an extension of time for the area. Although no extension was granted, the Board assured the Committee that action against the towns would depend upon the good faith shown in cooperating with the Committee. The Committee immediately set about getting information on the feasibility of a joint project.

An engineering firm was employed to study the advantages of a joint project for 15 communities. The report was submitted to the communities in the fall of 1954. Meetings were held with consulting engineers, fiscal agents, bond attorneys, and investment bankers on various phases of the report. April, 1956, was set by the Board for joint action by all the communities participating in the study.

Quite a number of communities expressed their willingness to enter into a joint project by submitting a resolution so stating to the Public Services Committee. When Wilkes-Barre notified the Committee that it did not intend to enter into any joint project with other communities, the Board decided to cite the City and proceeded with Court action. The Wilkes-Barre case had been before the Dauphin County Court for the last five years.

Recently the Pennsylvania Superior Court denied Wilkes-Barre's appeal from a Health Department order to build a sewage disposal plant. Wilkes-Barre therefore had lost its appeal in an effort to set aside the order of the State Sanitary Water Board which directed Wilkes-Barre to erect a disposal unit.

In the spring of 1962 preliminary meetings were held by the Public Services Committee of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. After a series of exploratory meetings ordinances prepared by expert bond counsel were adopted by all of the participating municipalities, and on December 3, 1962, the last of the municipalities executed the articles of incorporation.

#### DINNER

On December 12, 1962, the members of the Authority met for the purpose of organization. They were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Frank L. Pinola, President Judge, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. The By-Laws were approved and officers elected. These proceedings were followed by a dinner honoring the members of the Authority and their respective official bodies. The speaker for the evening was the Honorable Dr. Charles L. Wilbar, Jr., Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

by Dr. Charles L. Wilbar, Jr.  
State Secretary of Health

"This is an auspicious occasion for a major program of Pennsylvania--the clean streams program. As Chairman of the Sanitary Water Board of the Commonwealth, which has a special official responsibility in connection with the clean streams program, I am pleased to have this opportunity to be with you to speak to you about our problems and programs in connection with maintaining and improving the purity of Pennsylvania's waterways, particularly the Susquehanna River and most particularly the North Branch of that river.

It seems to me that today's activities in the formation of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority marks an important milestone in the history of Wyoming Valley municipalities. The abatement of untreated sewage discharge will be a major forward step in eliminating pollution of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. That, we all realize, is the purpose and end result of the formation of this Authority.

Thus, all of us with responsibility and concern for those who live along the river and use the river, know that it is absolutely necessary for the North Branch and its tributaries to be freed from domestic wastes, industrial wastes and acid mine drainage which have long defiled the stream. Present pollution of the Susquehanna can be largely eliminated by the construction and operation of sewage treatment plants, adequate treatment of acid mine drainage and flow control from future dams. This program requires a considerable amount of expenditure, and thus public support, by municipalities, industries, sportsmen's groups, citizens' groups and government.

The Sanitary Water Board fully realizes the economic problems involved in the program. Many of the communities are economically depressed and the hard coal industry is unquestionably hard pressed to maintain its existence. However, we feel that procedures for removing pollution from the Susquehanna can be and are being developed which are both practical and feasible. Toward this end, the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority has been created for the express purpose of financing and constructing sewage treatment facilities for its 14 participating municipalities. I am confident that this Authority will now proceed without delay to accomplish this purpose and that soon we will be witnessing the construction of sewage treatment facilities that will adequately serve the people of the Wyoming Valley.

Sewage is not alone to blame for pollution of our rivers. Industry's wastes and acid and iron from active and abandoned mine operations are a major cause of pollution in Pennsylvania. Acid and iron contaminants from deep mines are particularly serious in connection with the pollution of the North Branch of the Susquehanna.

Industry has made much progress in the last dozen years in our state in meeting its obligation under the clean streams law. Acid mine drainage from deep mines is the major source of pollution of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. Improvements have been made but there is still considerable work to be done. Very large amounts of iron and acid from pumpings and gravity overflow from past and present mining go into the river.

Two major tributaries of the North Branch of the Susquehanna have improved to such a degree, as far as acid mine drainage is concerned, that the Sanitary Water Board, after proper hearings, has reclassified them to a cleaner class. This now requires a higher degree of sewage treatment and industrial wastes by the municipalities bordering them. These are Black Creek, where the reclassification occurred several years ago, and the Lackawanna River, where

the reclassification occurred this year.

I have listed for you a number of the specific problems and a number of specific activities which have been taking place towards solving the clean stream problems as far as the Susquehanna River, particularly its North Branch, is concerned. Development of ultimate cleanliness of the Susquehanna Basin requires certain long term and comprehensive studies, which are now under way. The Department of Health has, for a number of months, been undertaking a comprehensive study for pollution control needs in the North Branch, particularly with reference to acid mine drainage. It is anticipated that this study will be ready for presentation to the Sanitary Water Board during the early part of next year. Further, the Congress has appropriated specially marked funds for the United States Public Health Service as well as for the Corps of Engineers to make a comprehensive study of the Susquehanna River Basin for water needs and pollution control needs for the next 50 years. This study is just getting under way and it is estimated that it will take six years before completion.

You, who are gathered here tonight, are all interested in the economy of the Wyoming Valley, which is tied in intimately with a cleaner North Branch of the Susquehanna and its tributaries, one which is so free from pollution as to attract and keep industries, recreational activities and old and new municipalities. It is the duty and determination of the Sanitary Water Board to help to see that pollution of the Susquehanna River is eliminated. This can be done and must be done without jeopardizing the existence of industries and the livelihood of the people who live in the basin.

I have pointed out to you that the Sanitary Water Board, in pursuing its duties under the clean streams law, has issued orders to municipalities and major coal corporations for treating wastes. At times we have had to take the matter before courts of the Commonwealth, but we have not lost a case in this connection in recent years in a Commonwealth court. We are always reluctant to take cases to court, for we realize that no one really wants to harm his neighbor downstream and that the difficulties lie in adequate understanding, planning and financing, yet the Board is duty-bound to carry out the mandates of the law as expeditiously as possible.

Unquestionably the Sanitary Water Board and the Government of Pennsylvania will continue to help municipalities and industries along the Susquehanna with advice and assist in obtaining governmental financial aid where needed in connection with the necessary abatement of all water pollution.

Thus when Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Nanticoke, Kingston, Edwardsville, Plymouth, Exeter, Swoyersville, West Pittston, Wyoming, Hanover Township, Jenkins Township, Plains Township and Forty Fort are treating their wastes before they enter the Susquehanna River through one or more sewage treatment plants, we can all express a loud "well done" as to conquering of municipal waste pollution on this major waterway.

I congratulate each municipality and each individual who has participated in the formation of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority which is getting under way this evening. I know that with your leadership and hard work we can expect that proper sewage treatment facilities will soon be in operation and that the Sanitary Water Board can be proudly present at the dedication ceremonies."

#### REFLECTIONS ON INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Many years ago Patrick Henry said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging the future but by the past." The wisdom of his words should not be forgotten, nor should they be lost at this time.

If the experience of the past fifteen years, as we have lost industries, people, and federal aid, has not provided oil for our lamp of experience, the pathway is dark indeed.

One obligation of the local official of today is vision--not just the anticipation of tomorrow, but the creation of tomorrow. He must see the community not as it is, but as it ought to be and can be. The central question for him must be: What kind of community do I want to help build?

Effective local government depends not so much upon the machinery we employ as the spirit we have. Good local government is impossible unless we first discover our goal and unless we think creatively about human resources and human relations.

It seems self evident that small town government is in some danger of submergence. It is threatened with a withering away of its functions and a loss of power to make fundamental decisions. The danger of submergence is more than imaginary. Can it be avoided?

One important American political tenet is that problems and powers of government shall be handled at the lowest possible level to

which they can be assigned, closest to the people concerned. How can this be done? By the principle of intergovernmental cooperation. Too many times cooperation between towns is avoided because it's too full of common sense. We have got to learn that all communities in an area sink or swim together, that the economic well being of one community affects the others.

To the members of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority: the creation of this Authority is proof positive that the principle of intergovernmental cooperation is the only method available to municipalities to solve common problems and still retain local home rule. This Authority is the product of a genuine spirit of cooperation among local officials of this area.

#### AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The members of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority representing their communities are: Term Expiring in 1963: Samuel Zarembo, Wilkes-Barre; George Spohrer, Pittston; Anthony Shipula, Hanover Township; John N. Shoemaker, Wyoming. Term Expiring in 1964: Guy Walker, Wilkes-Barre; Robert J. Hourigan, Forty Fort; Reuben H. Levy, Kingston; John Stasik, Plains Township. Term Expiring in 1965: Benjamin L. Jenkins, Wilkes-Barre; Chester Nocek, Edwardsville; Harold R. Wruble, Exeter; Nicholas R. Lakatos, Nanticoke. Term Expiring in 1966: James J. Law, Wilkes-Barre; Frank Gerosky, Jenkins Township; John T. Mulhall, West Pittston; Henry Levi, Nanticoke. Term Expiring in 1967: Sheldon Wintermute, Wilkes Barre; Blythe H. Evans, Jr., Plymouth; Charles Pfifferling, Kingston; John Kolesar, Swoyersville.

At the organizational meeting of the Authority, the following officers were elected for 1963: Chairman, Reuben H. Levy; Vice-Chairman, John T. Mulhall; Vice-Chairman, Nicholas R. Lakatos; Secretary, Harold R. Wruble; Treasurer, Guy Walker.

#### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Christmas Club: What you save to pay for last year's gifts.

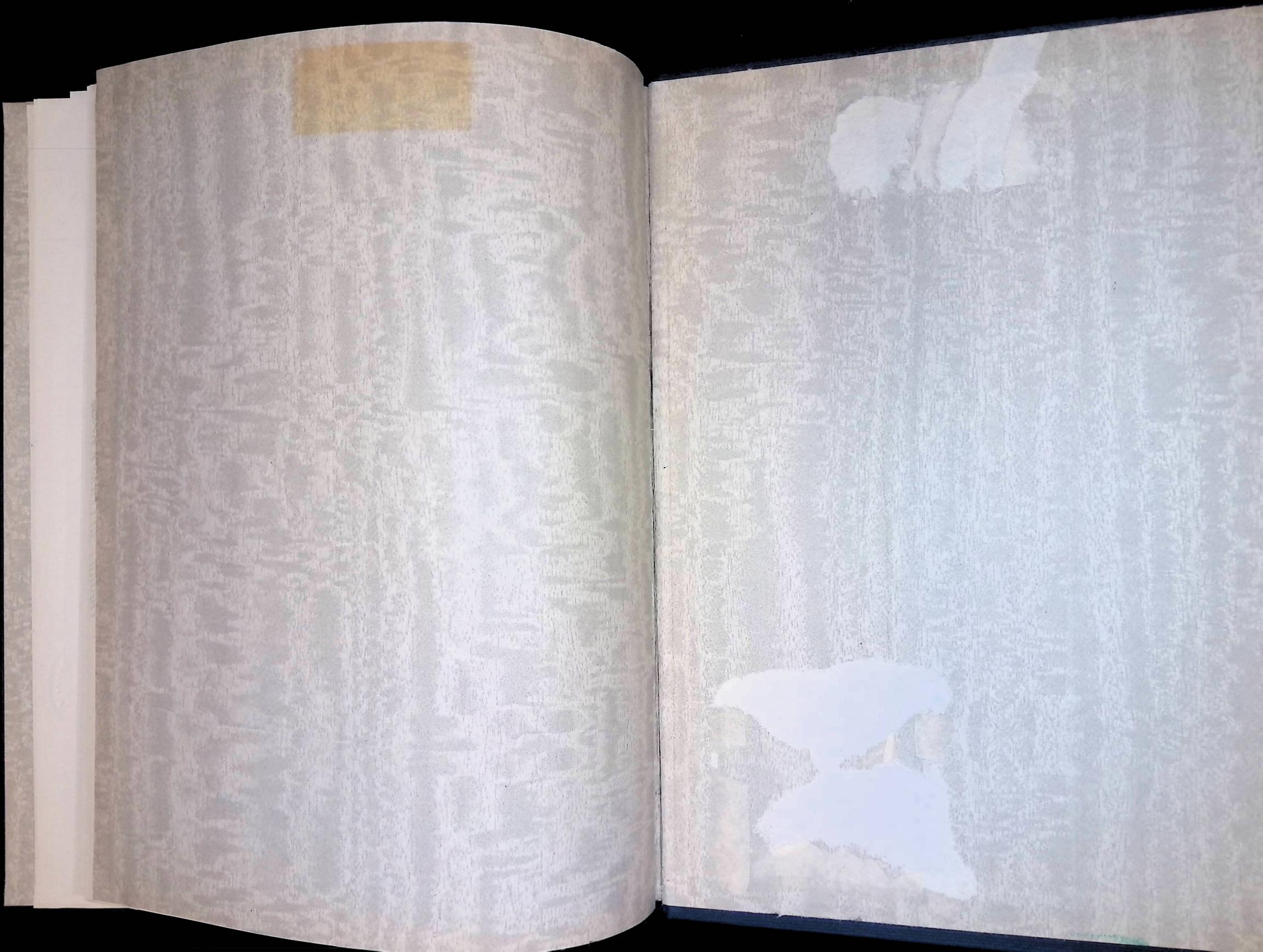
Perfect Wife: One who helps her husband with the housework.

#### PUBLICATION

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*Seasons Greetings*

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