

# WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FEBRUARY, 1960

## BIG MOMENT FOR CAMERA FANS ARRIVES ANNOUNCE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

For camera enthusiasts the Employees' Recreation Association announces an Amateur Photography Contest, which will run April 18.

John H. Mirkil, contest coordinator, lists a first prize of \$10 for the best color picture, with a similar award for the best black and white offering. The second prize in each class will be \$5. To top it off, winning photographs will be published in the Water Department News.

There is only a slight catch in this rosy announcement. You must be an "amateur" photographer (meaning, we suppose, no professional models in your past), and you should be a member of the association. These are simple qualifications to meet. Provided you can click a camera and provided you join the association (\$1 will do it), you may participate.

Pictures will be judged for general eye appeal and interest, and they may cover any conceivable subject. While photographic quality is important, it will not necessarily be deciding. Any picture made after December 1, 1959 is eligible.

Here's how to enter the contest. Enclose your snapshot in an envelope, with your name, address, and work station on a separate sheet of paper (but don't put your name on the snapshot). Send the envelope to John H. Mirkil, Design division, 10th floor, Penn Square Bldg., Philadelphia 7, Pa. You may enter one color, and one black and white, picture. Keep the original negatives in a safe place at home. The judge will want to see them eventually. Pictures will be returned on request.

You may use any type of camera. You may make black and white snapshots from any brand of negative type black and white film, but not from color film.

Among the restrictions are the following. Pictures must not have been entered in any other exhibit



INVENTOR WITH "CYCLEVIEWER"

Samuel Schwartz, assistant to the Commissioner, demonstrates his "cycleviewer", a slide rule like device which shows water customers at a glance the periods covered by their bills. Because of its usefulness in explaining the new cycle billing system, Sam's invention (produced in blackboard and pocket size forms) is becoming a popular item with City employees, banks and mortgage companies.

where prizes were awarded. Print enlargements cannot be bigger than five by seven inches. Also forbidden: Art work or retouching on prints or on the negatives from which they are made; composite pictures such as multiple printing on montages; mounting and framing.

Copies of the official contest rules are posted on bulleting boards. You may also obtain copies from your association representative or supervisor.

P. S. —The name of the judge is locked in the department's secret vault.

## MUSEUM OF ART

*The famed Courbet exhibition will continue to February 14. Don't miss the 86 major paintings showing Gustave Courbet in all of his important periods and styles. These renowned paintings have been gathered from Europe and America. Mid-19th century artist, Courbet brought realism to painting, influencing numerous painters who followed.*



## New Programs Pave Way For Employee Promotion

New facilities and training programs are opening attractive promotional opportunities for Water Department employees.

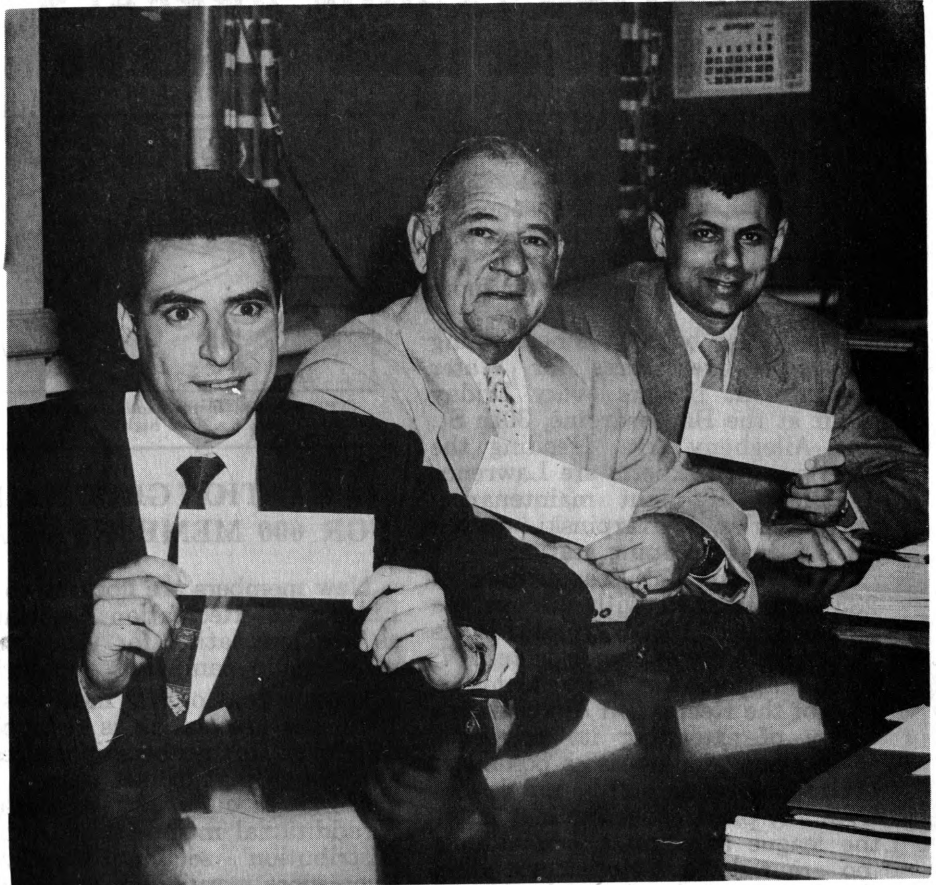
Four such opportunities are at the new Torresdale water treatment plant and will be open to Civil Service competition by 30 employees who recently completed a special training course. The positions, "Filter Plant Mechanic-Electrical Operator," pay \$4,258 to \$4,882 yearly. The trainees, drawn from the various water treatment plants, were given two weeks of class instruction and one week of on-the-job training.

Official opening of the new Load Control Center in the near future will require four positions as "Water System Load Control Dispatcher" to maintain round-the-clock operation. Paying \$5,597 to \$7,030 annually, the positions are highly specialized. A measure of the interest among Water employees is the fact that thirty applied to take the examination.

Seven employees will complete special training for water distribution repairman jobs by early February and will be placed in positions as they open.

Along with the positions created by these special programs, a number of other jobs are being offered by the department (and in many cases other City agencies). These include: Clerk Stenographer I, \$3,283,548; Clerk Stenographer II, \$3,712-\$4,068; Key Punch Operator I, \$2,825-\$3,548; Key Punch Operator II, \$3,094-\$3,886; Public Works Inspector I, \$4,068-\$5,109; Tabulating Equipment Operator I, \$3,238-\$4,68; Tabulating Equipment Operator II, \$3,712-\$4,664; Public Works Inspector II, (promotional only), \$4,882-\$6,131; Accountant II, \$4,882-\$6,131; Accounting Procedures Analyst, \$7,701-\$9,242; Book-keeping Machine Operator, \$3,094-\$3,886; Budget Officer II, \$8,061-\$9,242; Chemist I, \$4,258-\$5,358; Civil Engineer II, (Design), \$6,417-\$8,061; Graduate Engineer, \$5,348-\$6,131; Laboratory Technician (Bacteriology), \$3,548-\$4,456; Laboratory Technician, \$3,548-\$4,456.

Application forms and announcements may be obtained from the Personnel Department's recruitment Office, room 127, City Hall, by personal visit, telephone, or letter.



Good ideas have their reward. Salvatore DeLuca, Eugene McCabe, and Vincent Puccio (left to right) display checks received under City's suggestion system for ideas that improve Water Department operations. DeLuca won \$150, McCabe \$100, Puccio \$15.

## THREE "COOL" WATER MEN SPLASH INTO THE MONEY WITH NEW IDEAS

That good ideas may pay off handsomely was shown recently when Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter presented checks to three alert Water Department men.

The checks were in recognition of work improving suggestions submitted by Salvatore DeLuca, Eugene McCabe, and Vincent Puccio. Running the gamut of various departmental officials, the ideas were good enough to reach the City's central Awards Board, which gave final approval.

Mr. DeLuca, an operator at the Southeast sewage treatment works, won \$150 for suggesting a way to make interchangeable use of sludge pumps. This, according to Ralph Hoot, chief of sewage treatment, will increase the efficiency of sludge pumping operations at Southeast.

Fire hose can now be used on sewer maintenance trucks in place of the stiff discharge hose hitherto used, thanks to Eugene McCabe, a foreman in sewer maintenance. The regular discharge hose is more costly than fire hose and more difficult to handle. By means of an "adopter", suggested by Mr. McCabe, the Water Department now uses condemned fire hose at no cost. Needless to add, Mr. McCabe received \$100 for his idea.

Fifteen dollars went to Vincent Puccio, a repairman at the meter shop, for suggesting the use of a power sweeper to clean the yards at Distribution headquarters, 29th and Cambria Sts. Not only are the yards easier to clean now, but their general appearance has improved.

## BOWLING LEAGUE APPEALS FOR MORE BALL HURLERS

A "BOWLERS WANTED" sign has been hung out by the Employees' Recreation Association.

With a bang-up half season behind it, the league is out to expand even more. Russell Thomas, league coordinator, has appealed for more teams.

The rolling balls have been piling up impressive scores for Water Department players every Friday night at the Bowlerdrome, 30th St. and Allegheny Ave. Heading the emerging ball experts are Lawrence J. Braig, of plant maintenance, and Charles J. Karpinski, of the Race Street pumping station.

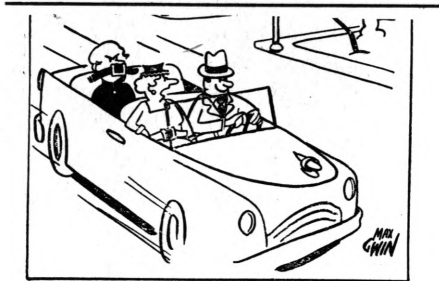
Braig set a half season high of 235 and finished with an average game score of 163. Karpinski holds the highest average game score, 167.

The appeal for more teams is part of the Recreation Association's policy of extending its privileges to as many employees as possible.

Groups of four or five employees from any plant or section may enter the league as a team. Individuals too are welcome. Notwithstanding the skill being developed by league members, the ability to top 100 is not a requirement for participation. Willingness to play, enjoyment of the game, and desire to spend an evening with fellow employees are the most important considerations.

Persons interested in joining the league may come out Friday night, or call Joseph Goldberger, personnel assistant, aut. 2871 or LO. 8-5950 ext. 227.

Here is how other members are doing in the league. First half season averages: John Liberatore 147, Russell Thomas 144, Alfred P. Gionta 155, Louis Farabelli 148, and Nicholas Mocharnuk 136, all from the Meter shop; Dewey Crawford 122, Distribution section; Frank S. Paino 139, Northeast sewage treatment works; Harold E. Dando 147, Sewer Maintenance section; John Craney 149 and John Hevener 139, both of Customer Service section; Calvin B. Sasse 155, Delaware pumping division; Lesser Lindenbaum 118, Southwest sewage treatment works; John F. Cashman 143, sewage operations administration; George H. Tucker 123, Southwest sewage treatment works; John G. Pagano 159, Plant Maintenance section; John Sassman 145, general administration.



"Didn't you install mother's safety belt a little high?"

## RECREATION GROUP AIMS FOR 600 MEMBERS GOAL

New members are flocking to the Employees' Recreation Association as the termination for the current membership campaign approaches.

With a goal of 600 members for 1960, the association is redoubling its efforts. Its membership is already well above that of last year.

Morris Pirollo reports the sale of 35 additional membership cards to Distribution section employees. Even more recruits are expected.

Strongly attracting new members are the reduced price tickets offered by the association for various special events. Among these events is the "Ben Hur" film at the Boyd theater Wednesday evening, February 24. By courtesy of the association, any Water Department employee (whether or not he is an association member) may purchase \$1.80 balcony seats for \$1.45 and \$2.50 orchestra and loge seats for \$2.00 by using the coupon in this issue of the Water Department News.

On January 6, Recreation Association members enjoyed a double-header basketball bill at Convention Hall where the Phila. Warriors beat the St. Louis Hawks and the Cincinnati Royals beat the New York Knicks.

Reduced tickets to this game were arranged by Association Vice President Samuel Gerson, Design division. The association hopes to obtain reduced tickets to another Warriors game on March 3. Announcement will be posed on your bulletin board.

On January 5, approximately 170 Water Department employees, with their families and friends, enjoyed a performance of the Ice Follies at the Arena.

## 1960-1965 Capital Program

### Sewer Improvements

\$78.6 million



### Waterworks Improvements

\$51.3 million



You don't realize how many of your old school chums have become highbrows until they remove their hats.

Boss: "What are you putting your hat and coat on for? Where are you going?"

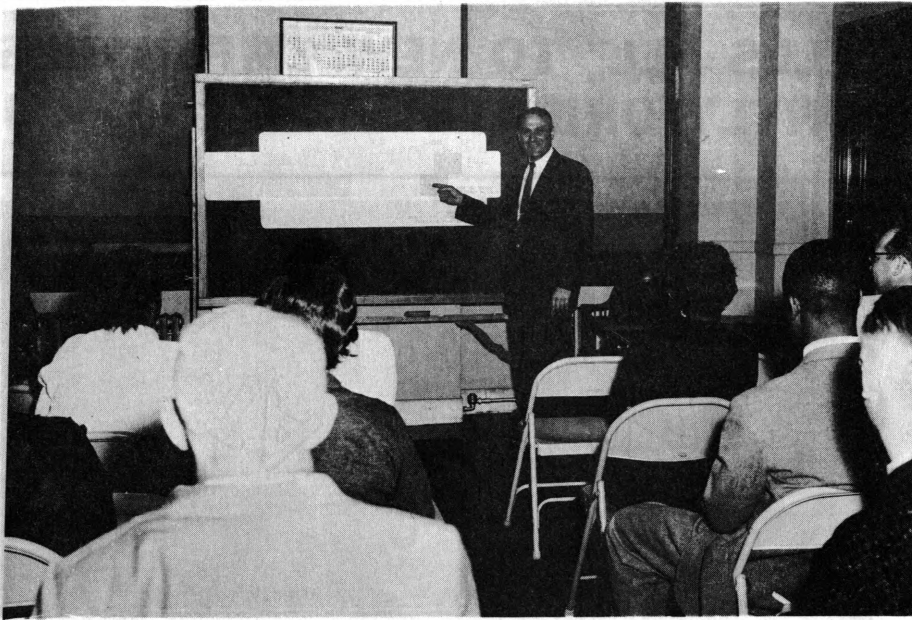
Steno: "Didn't you tell me to take a letter to the Miami Beach Plaza Hotel?"—IMP.

## Personal Notes

The Christmas holidays proved very exciting and wonderful for some of our Water Department employees. On Christmas Day David Gower, of the Capital Improvements Unit, became a father for the third time. Mrs. Gower gave birth to a lovely little girl, Karen Hannah, making a wonderful playmate for the two older Gower boys. Congratulations!!!

Mary Wolicki, of the Commissioner's Office, was given a beautiful diamond engagement ring on Christmas from her "Bob". All her neighbors had Mary believing she was going to get a cedar chest and she was wondering where she would have room for it—but she was wonderfully surprised and happy. The lucky man's name . . . Robert Schmidt.

Janice James, our new employee with Sewerage Operations, also became engaged on Christmas and it looks like Cupid spent a busy week-end. We wish both girls all best luck and, please, girls, come down to earth again.



Thomas Mullineux, accounting officer, starts off cycle billing class for employees of the Water and Collections Departments. For a solid week the "students" studied customer relations and details of the new billing system. Purpose: To answer queries, and provide prompt service, for the public.

## MAYBE THE LADY HAD NO SALES RESISTANCE

The City's new water and sewer billing system got off to a flying start last month.

On January 3, the Water Department ran a huge advertisement in the Sunday newspapers to tell its customers all about the system. The next day a pleasant voiced woman called up and said, "I saw your ad, and I think cycle billing is just dandy. How do I apply for it?"

The lady was oversold, but she proved once more the close ties between public relations and "operations". So in reverse did a City employee who replied to another call about the advertisement, "Ad? What ad? This is the City, lady."

Working on the theory that good public relations help operations, the Water Department ran ads in all the daily, and many of the weekly, newspapers. It held training classes to teach 60 employees of the Water and Collections Departments the A-B-C's of cycle billing. It printed, and prepared to distribute through Collections, an explanatory folder with each new bill. It called meetings with representatives of the banks and mortgage companies. It circulated digests of information. It issued news releases. Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter went on the air.



"It seems, one day, one of the girls opened a file drawer and a mouse jumped out."

COURTESY WALL STREET JOURNAL

## CYCLE BILLERS STUDY HOW TO HANDLE PUBLIC

Sixty employees of the Water and Collections Department went to class last month to learn everything possible about the City's new cycle billing system for water and sewer service. Purpose: To prepare for a possible flood of inquiries from water customers about the new system.

In alternating morning and afternoon classes of 30 each, the employees listened to a battery of instructors, discussing topics ranging from the broad features of cycle billing to the best way to handle an irate customer.

By the end of the week the employees were ready for the numerous inquiries expected, whether by telephone, letter or personal visit. Some members of the classes would serve as interviewers; others would operate in the field.

Organized under the general direction of Samuel J. Schwartz, assistant to the Water Commissioner, the classes won enthusiastic approval of the "student."

Thomas E. Mullineux, chief of utility accounting for the Water Department, discussed the general operation of cycle billing. Procedures were taught by John E. Ryan, assistant chief of the Systems division in the Office of the Finance Director. Customer relations were discussed by Robert H. Coates, director of school extension for the Board of Public Education.

Most customer inquiries under cycle billing will be referred to the newly organized Water Revenue division of the Department of Collections. Some special cases will be handled by the Water Department's Customer Services section.

## Planning

*The world seems topsy turvy  
And our thinking is mixed up  
We try to make things better  
With no thought of giving up.*

*We are in a scientific age  
So watch your every step, please  
Don't use your mind on a vast plan,  
By using half vast ideas.*

*George Fred Smith,  
Customer Service Section*

## DEPARTMENT "TELLS ALL" TO NEW EMPLOYEES AS IT STARTS MONTHLY ORIENTATION PROGRAM

WELCOME was written in capital letters recently as the department started a monthly orientation class for new employees.

Twenty employees gathered in the Commissioner's conference room to be greeted by Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter and to listen to brief talks by five department officials. Questions flew and interest was lively as the two-hour program unfolded. Much of the program included audience participation, as well as showing of color slides.

Intended to give new employees a clearer notion of their working environment, the class will be repeated each month for employees hired during the previous month. The class is under the auspices of the Personnel section.

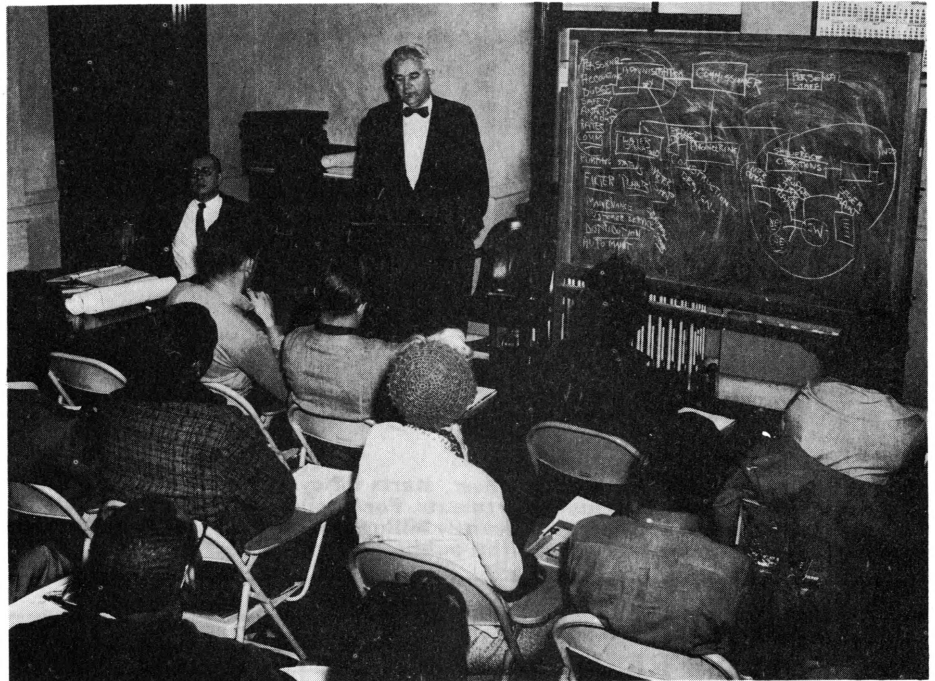
Ervin L. Davis, personnel officer, said that the program will provide "official and accurate" information to new employees concerning Water Department objectives, personal safety, benefits and obligations, with related policies and practices. "Above all, we want to answer the questions of our new employees," said Mr. Davis.

Participating in the January class were Administrative Services Director B. Barney Palmer, who discussed the department's over all goals, and Safety Engineer John T. Cappio, who explained the safety program.

Mr. Davis, assisted by Miss Regina M. Powers, assistant personnel officer, and Joseph Goldberger, personnel assistant, covered a wide range of topics, including pay, sick leave, pensions, insurance coverage, promotions, performance reports, training opportunities, suggestion awards, holidays and recreation.



"Yes Sir, Young man, I started from scratch."



New employees of the Water Department feel very much at home as the department's Personnel section launches a broad orientation program. The program, which will be repeated each month for newcomers, gives employees the chance to ask questions and provides information about pay, fringe benefits, promotions, etc. Above, Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter welcomes employees.

## Railroader Harry Myers adds another "Last" as he takes Final trip on Capital Trolley

By ROSEMARY ROSENTHAL

With the Christmas holidays just about forgotten and the children's electric trains put away until next year, we learn that with some of our fellow employees "railroading" is not just a seasonal avocation but a full time, year round hobby. One of the most active of these "railroaders" is Harry Myers of 5005 North Sydenham Street, an engineering aide in the Mechanical and Engineering section of Water Operations.

Harry, who has an H. O. gauge full scale model electric train in a second floor bedroom of his home, has been a member of the National Railroad Historical Society since 1943. Members of the society mainly ride on las trains and trolleys that are discontinued, and these trips usually bring out crowds of people. Harry's last trip was to Pottsville on the Reading Railroad's streamlined "Crusader." His longest trip

was one he took alone to British Columbia.

The society has about 100 members from Philadelphia; including two other Water Department employees—James Dillon of Projects Control and George Gimborn. There are 1700 members throughout the world—with North America having 38 chapters.

On January 2, Harry took the last ride of a Washington, D. C., trolley that was discontinued. This was a most picturesque trip winding along the shores of the Potomac and ending up at Cabin John. The service on that day had to be doubled to accommodate all the crowds. Harry has never been on a train that was the cause of an accident but was on one that was hit by an automobile at a grade crossing. Harry finds his hobby to be about the most interesting an engineer could enjoy and hopes to continue it for a long, long time.



A participant in the annual Mummies Parade since he was two years old, Henry Hoochuk sports one of his comic costumes.

## HENRY HOOCHUK WINS 12th MUMMERS PRIZE

For the 26th straight year, Henry Hoochuk made his march up Broad St. New Year's Day with the Murray Club of the comic division.

Henry, who is a supervisor at the Southwest sewage treatment works, was in good form. After 11 years of winning cash prizes, he added a twelfth year prize by finishing sixth in the competition. For the previous six years, Henry had carried off first prize in the comic division.

With a talent for costume designing, Henry designed and made seven outfits for his club, including the captain's suit. The last won fourth prize, and all his creations were awarded prize money.

"Henry has been hitting the street every New Year's since he was two years old," reports Lesser Lindenbaum, "and while he is a little older now, he has said that not a thing on this earth could keep him off Broad St. on New Year's Day, even if it looked like he wouldn't be able to clear all the man made hurdles this year. But Bill Penn smiled down from City Hall and there was ole Hoochuk leading the Murray Club all the way."

Well, it looks like Henry did some good leading. Congratulations, Henry, from the department.



## IF IT'S EXPERIENCE YOU WANT— NEW QUARTER CENTURY MEN HAVE IT

If variety is the spice of life, the Quarter Century Club is in for a lively year. Eleven new members, with widely varying backgrounds, will be welcomed into the club at a February 11 dinner to be held at D. F. McAllister and Sons, 1811 Spring Garden St.

With 25 years in the City service and a rich outside experience behind them, the new members, collectively, have done a little of everything. It is impossible in this limited space to cover that varied experience, but a few highlights follow.

One of the more rugged members is David T. Anderson, civil engineering aide to the Water Commissioner. There is a reason for Dave's ruggedness. It is athletics. Dave has participated in practically all the sports you could mention. When he started with the old Bureau of Engineering and Surveys (1926), the survey district had a baseball team. Samuel S. Baxter was the pitcher, with Dave catching. A Drexel engineering graduate, Dave was a member of the Bachelor's Barge Club on the Schuylkill for 13 years; he could have tried out for the Olympics in 1940 but for the war. In the armed services for 13 years, Dave was athletic director at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot. From 1952 to 1956, he was executive secretary of the Board of Building Standards, Department of Licenses and Inspections.

Benjamin Pollock and his cigar are a familiar sight in the Water Department. Ben, who is a clerk in the Administrative Division, started with the department in 1934. With broad experience in local department stores, he was self employed as a window decorator from 1930 to 1934. Ben is strongly enthusiastic about double features. He goes to double feature movies, doubleheader baseball games, and keeps two TV sets going at the same time.

Few City employees keep as busy as Carl W. Frey, chief of customer services. It's Carl's job to keep the public happy by giving them all the service possible, and this means listening to complaints,

giving out information, arranging for crews to pump out cellars, etc. Carl, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in governmental administration from 1944 to 1952, started with the City in 1930 as a chainman in the Second Survey District.

An experienced radio hand is Harry T. Leeser, engineer at the Queen Lane pumping station. Starting in the City service in 1934, Harry had previously worked for the Atwater Kent Company as a radio tester. He has continued his interest in things mechanical, even to the extent of building his own hi-fi set.

A clerk in the Meter Shop since 1934, Harry J. Andrews is a veteran of the hat manufacturing industry. From 1908 to 1944, he worked for Frank Schoble and Company, men's hat manufacturers.

Constantly on the go in the field is John J. McDevitt, a civil engineer in the Construction division. A registered professional construction engineer, John spent three years in the Seabees during World II. He was formerly employed by United Engineers Construction Co.

A spot welder with the E. G. Budd Company from 1922 to 1929 and a helper on the Reading Railroad from 1929 to 1934, Joseph McStravick is now employed as a laborer in sewer maintenance.

Handling vehicles is a regular thing for Francis O'Shea, an equipment operator in sewer maintenance. Before joining the City service, he was self employed.

John J. Tobin, a foreman in water distribution, entered the old Water Bureau in 1934. For many years previously, he was employed by various private firms—the American Stores 1918-24, the Bayak Cigar Company 1924-26, the Warner Company 1926-33.

Philip F. Jacobs and Daniel Travaglio complete the list of eleven. Phil, an engineering aide in the Drainage Information section, entered the Sewer division as a draftsman in 1929. Dan is a laborer in the Distribution division. He worked for George E. Spence, plumbers, from 1944 to 1946.

## SEVEN EMPLOYEES RETIRE AFTER EXTENDED SERVICE

Retirement has come to seven department employees, comprising a variety of occupations. The department offers its good wishes to all the fine employes listed below.

George Cornegay, 3015 West Colona St., an operator at the Belmont raw water pumping station, joined the City service January 16, 1946. Seventy years of age, he formerly worked for the Pennsylvania Transfer Company and Philadelphia Naval Base.

Henry Patillo, 65, of 5534 Girard Ave., is a repairman at the Meter shop. Entering the City service on June 22, 1930, he has held a variety of positions.

Jake Smith, 69, of 3813 Cambria St., has been in sewer maintenance since 1935. A laborer for the City, he formerly worked for the Midvale Steel Works and a local sugar refinery.

Jesse Fields, 55, of 5224 Irving St., became a City employee on November 27, 1936. A plant helper at the Queen Lane raw water pumping station, he once worked for the Atlantic Refining Company and the Philadelphia Gas Company.

John A. Hanlon, 4264 Griscom St., is an operator at the Torresdale filtered water pumping station. Sixty-nine years of age, he joined the City service on June 7, 1944. Before then he worked for the Lincoln Hosiery and John R. Foy.

Charles McClure, 69, of 8040 Frankford Ave., has been working as a carpenter at the Torresdale water treatment plant. Formerly an employee of the Atlas Metal and Stamping Company, he has been with the City since December 19, 1949.

Vitantonio Pentasuglio, 76, of 4145 Paul St., has retired as a laborer at the Torresdale water treatment plant. Once an employee of Keystone Emry, he became a City employee July 27, 1944.

"The boss is mean," the man told his wife, "but he's fair."

"What do you mean by that?" she asked.

"Well, he's mean to everybody."

\* \* \*

To err is human and with a blond it's divine.



Gold watches were presented to retiring veterans, Joseph Falotico, Louis Sacchetti, and David Medway by Water Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter. Watches were gifts of fellow workers in Customer Services section. L. to r., Sacchetti, Medway, Falotico, Baxter.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE VETERANS RECEIVE GOLD WATCHES FROM FELLOW WORKERS

Three retiring employes of the Customer Service section received gold watches from fellow workers at a brief ceremony in the Commissioner's conference room.

Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter made the presentation to Joseph Falotico, Louis Sacchetti, and David Medway. Mr. Baxter expressed the department's best wishes to the retiring veterans.

Of the three, Joseph Falotico, who lives at 845 Watkins St., has the longest City service—35 years. He worked in the Bureau of Highways, the Recorder of Deeds Office, and the Office of the Receiver of Taxes until March 5, 1940, when he joined the old Water Bureau. A field representative for the department, Mr. Falotico is 60 years old.

Louis Sacchetti entered City service on April 1, 1942 as a clerk in the Water Bureau. Starting in the Distribution division, he later transferred to the Registrar's office and the Service section. Mr. Sacchetti, who lives at 1709 Benson St., worked in recent years as a clerk.

The City career of David Medway, 1755 N. 53rd St., began in 1938 as a temporary recreation employee. He received a permanent appointment on May 13, 1942 as a field inspector in the Water Bureau. For a brief time he was engaged in licenses and inspections work, returning to the Department in 1952.

Both Mr. Sacchetti and Mr. Medway are 70 years old. They plan to live the "life of a retired gentleman."